

POLICE TERROR IN N. RHODESIA

VIVID ACCOUNT OF BRUTAL BEATINGS

29M. 114
VH#

NEW AGE

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LUSAKA, N. RHODESIA.—This town in Northern Rhodesia has seen ugly examples of police brutality against Africans in the last week or two, and there is no doubt one of the reasons is that large numbers in the force are recruits from South Africa.

Both the army and the police force of Rhodesia have been recruiting steadily in South Africa for the last year.

Reports from Northern Rhodesia tell not only of round-ups of leaders and members of the United National Independence Party, but also of beatings in police stations, victims with perforated eardrums, bruises, and acts of calculated sadism.

The police authorities have denied the allegations of torture and man-handling in Lusaka townships.

Dossiers on the wave of assaults are being prepared for the British Government; and reports from Lusaka tell of legal actions being considered against the police.

Here is an account of a beating-up by a Northern Rhodesian victim:

HOUSE SURROUNDED

"The time was between 6.30 and 7 p.m. Soon after our supper a gang of uniformed policemen, led by a youthful white officer, surrounded our house.

"The white officer said that, warrant or no warrant, we and the house would be searched. Two of the African police were armed as was the European officer.

"Our situpa (passes) were surrendered to him and he then ordered us to get out of the house.

"We were driven to the Matero Police Station at a terrific speed—above 65 m.p.h.

TURNUED INTO PUNCH-BALLS

"The young officer, in the presence of a senior officer, turned us into punch-balls. He used both open hands and fists to our faces.

"When the officer was tired of hitting us he used his military boots on us. He later told his African juniors to "warm themselves" on us. This they did with great gusto, raining blows on our unprotected faces and bodies. I bled profusely, but, alas, first-aid was not forthcoming.

"Smiling and unmoved the officer went ahead with the onslaught.

"But this was not the end. When senior officers arrived some of us mistakenly thought that the juniors would be chided for ill-treating us. This was a fallacy. For the most senior of the group watched me undergo a mighty thrashing at his order when I was as naked as I was at birth.

INTERROGATION

"We were later ordered to a room adjacent to the charge office for interrogation. In the passage were three policemen who beat us as we passed by. In the interrogation room I was told to strip myself again and then jump upwards and then turn while in the air. A black constable was handy to beat me up should I show any slowness in this exercise. He performed his duties to the letter for I was always receiving blows on my back. I remained naked throughout the interview, which lasted for more than 25 minutes.

"If this was not torture then let us have the police tell us what it is."

Women's Conference This Week-end

PORT ELIZABETH.

The Regional Committee of the Federation of S.A. Women has been busy all week putting finishing touches to the arrangements for the national women's conference which takes place at the Muslim Institute, Kempston Road, this week-end on the 2nd and 3rd.

DELEGATES NOTE: OWING TO THE CROWDED PROGRAMME THE CONFERENCE WILL COMMENCE ON SATURDAY MORNING AT 10 a.m., and not in the afternoon as previously announced.



The constable in this picture does not seem pleased about Non-Whites demanding entrance to the Jan Peerce concert at the Alhambra Theatre on Tuesday 22. The demonstration was part of the Coloured People's Congress campaign against cultural apartheid.

MANDELA DEFENDS POLITICAL REFUGEES

"No Desire to Conquer B.C.P."

JOHANNESBURG.

MR. Nelson Mandela, South Africa's underground leader, whipped in fast last week to reply to new accusations levelled against the South African freedom struggle by Basutoland's BCP president Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle.

Mr. Mokhehle told a leading daily that the banned African National Congress is (1) using Basutoland as a base and (2) trying to take over the BCP.

Here is Nelson Mandela's statement, sent in to New Age over the week-end.

"Mr. Mokhehle is taking advantage of the illegality of the ANC to make frivolous accusations against it in the hope that no voice will be raised in its defence.

"Democratic governments all over

the world have for centuries given asylum to political exiles who fled their countries to escape persecution from their own reactionary regimes. Indeed, almost all the independent and semi-independent States in Africa are full of such exiles.

"We would have expected Mr. Mokhehle, leader of a political party that fights against colonial exploitation and white supremacy, to use his influence for the extension of these facilities to South African political refugees who seek asylum in his own country in order to continue the struggle against the apartheid policies of the Verwoerd regime.

NO JUSTIFICATION

"Some of the former ANC members now in Basutoland are in fact citizens of that Protectorate who

settled in this country for various reasons. We can see no political justification for the protest of "infiltration" raised by Mr. Mokhehle when citizens of a country wish to participate in its politics.

"As for my own personal position, I would like to point out that not for one single moment have I left the country since the May strike. South Africans have fed and sheltered me and I have been greatly inspired by their sincere concern for my safety and welfare. The need has not arisen for me to look for asylum beyond our borders.

FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY

"We have no desire to conquer the BCP. Our attitude towards this Party has always been governed by the desire to establish fraternal solidarity with the people of Basutoland. As a matter of fact, the BCP was established in 1954, through the instrumentality of the ANC, to give

concrete expression to this fraternal solidarity. It is inconceivable that we would seek to destroy the same organisation whose establishment we inspired.

"We have repeatedly stressed the question of the unity of the African people throughout the continent and this has been equally emphasised by almost all African political organisations.

A CRIME

"Unity is of particular importance to us in Southern Africa where the forces of reaction are still strong and aggressive, and we regard it as a crime for any leader to make himself a tool for the creation of divisions amongst friendly peoples. For our own part we shall continue to work for closer friendship and better relations between the people of S.A. and those of Basutoland and we are confident that this policy will prevail in the end."



Mr. Nelson Mandela



ABOLISH WHIPPING

I am one of the "cranks" who believe in the abolition of the savagery of corporal punishment. They've used the whip so often for other crimes yet these days it's being used against democrats for political torture.

According to one of our BAD (really BAD) officials 1,600 'Bantu' voted in favour of public floggings (similar to public hangings except flogging is more of a humiliation). But the village has a 20,000 population! We know what Government-sponsored "voting" means.

I cannot understand how nurses—who serve and protect the people against illness—could have been so savagely beaten. This is downright brutality.

Perhaps I have used the word "savagery" too often? Oh, NO!

S. Africa Has Got Her Tshombes

Grahamstown has got her Tshombes and Mobutus. Recently while I was passing through Grahamstown I was pointed out two police informers who work for the Special Branch. They come to the people as one of them when in fact they are the enemies of the people.

One of them was a leading political figure in the Grahamstown ANC branch. In fact he was once a member of the Executive. Is he now the bitter enemy of any political movement because he lost his seat on the executive before the ANC was banned?

During the recent bus boycott this man played a leading role in trying to sabotage the people's solidarity and claimed that the organisers of the bus boycott were "small boys" and young frustrated agitators. But the boycott was a 100% success. The people stood by the "small boys."

You had better go back to the Congo, you stooges!

FRANK MAKANA
East London.

The whip is a savage implement but twice as savage when politically used. Nazi's Streicher and Eichmann believed in the whip. Perhaps I had better not mention the names of some South Africans—(sorry, "by South Africa I mean the Nats")—who believe in whipping and other forms of official, legal violence!

"DEMOCRAT"

Cape Town.

6-Year-Old Kids

Alexandra Township children who are told by the principals of various schools to leave because the schools are overcrowded are forced to labour in gardens and on golf courses by the Peri-Urban Areas Health Board. Most of the children are between six and nine. Owing to their expulsion from school they have nothing to do.

The Peri-Urban Health Board has instructed the police to arrest these children and take them to their parents to find out what school they attend. Some parents may say their children are still attending school. Those who say their children are not pupils are told by the police to fill in a form which is then taken back to the Health Board.

The people who sign such forms (and they are told it is compulsory) are told to send their children every morning to the Board. The payment of these kids is only 2s. a day and the Board itself is getting more money by using these kids for cheap labour because they are conveyed to and from work in the Board's pick-up vans.

This dirty scheme of the Peri-Urban Health Board and its African stooges must be abolished immediately. It is the Bantu Education Department, and not the kids, who are to blame because the children are not at school.

MOSES TSOAEDI
Alexandra.

Workers Want Decent Houses

The Cape Chamber of Industries recently sent some industrialists to inspect housing schemes built with levies from the employers at Langa and Nyanga. I hope these gentlemen will strongly condemn these new unhealthy schemes.

At the bachelor scheme, you will find that the quarters have cement floors, no ceiling and are ice cold in winter. The sleeping bed is built like a grave with a wooden top to sleep on. The long table in the front hall is also cement. I am sure not a single industrialist would sleep in these quarters.

I hope these industrialists will value their workers in future. A worker should be respected as he is a responsible person who produces the wealth of the country and helps in the upliftment of the country in many different ways. Workers want good houses with low rents and should not be given houses like donkey stables where they cannot relax in comfort after their work hours.

ZWELAKE XAMLASHE
Langa.

Detention Without Charge Unfair

I wish to point out to the public the carelessness of our South African laws. The police today can just arrest a person without having any reason, and detain you for 72 hours while they say they are still looking for a charge.

They arrested me on Tuesday 14, while I was attending the case of the schoolboys who were charged with public violence. This law of arresting and detaining a person without charge is unfair, because the public has no protection or say in the matter.

This law must be repealed, as it sends people to jail for nothing.
C. H. MOTSHABI
Bloemfontein.

TAKE OUT A SUBSCRIPTION FOR NEW AGE TODAY

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21/- for twelve months R2.10
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FIGHT YOUR OWN BATTLE!

WE want you to help us fight and win an important battle—the battle to increase New Age circulation amongst all sections of our people.

New Age being what it is, you will readily understand that what we are asking you to do is to FIGHT YOUR OWN BATTLE.

Press and radio combine, in ever-increasing measure, to suppress or distort the truth as to what is happening in our country, on our continent and in the world at large. It is New Age, and New Age only, which refuses to be a party to deliberate deception, which does all in its power to inform the people of the true state of affairs.

Every new, regular reader of New Age is a potential recruit to the political struggle or, if already a recruit, a better and more consistent fighter than one who fights in ignorance.

Our full-time sellers have given all of us a wonderful example of courage and loyalty. They have stuck to their jobs and their guns through thick and thin, undeterred by threats and intimidation.

It is, however, impossible for them to cover all the ground that needs to be covered. The present circulation of New Age is far from what it could be, and also far from adequate in relation to the serious political tasks which face us.

Remember that New Age is not just a newspaper—it is an organiser.

We urgently need many more voluntary sellers and agents, in every city, town and village.

Will you help us FIGHT YOUR OWN BATTLE?
VOLUNTEER NOW TO SELL NEW AGE!

Salute To The National Action Council

True and gallant leaders of my native land,

What matters if your good names are defamed by malicious, unmerited rivals

When the entire democratic world Acknowledges your just and timely deed?

In this our country and in distant lands

With you stand abundant majorities

Of mature and ardent freedom fighters.

Who are your rivals?—'Politically Unprincipled pithecanthropuses!' Have not they now turned against their vows?

Where is their 'no bail, no defence, no fine?'

Mendacious demagogues,—craven babblers,—

Who stick not to their own declarations!

Where is their 'serve, sacrifice and suffer?'

Why have others deserted the country?

True vanguard of the liberation struggle,— True yoke-fellows,—firm friends of human kind,—

Worry not about the 'Unity movement',

'Tis non-existing organization; The few who profess to be its members

Are the long known arm-chair politicians

Who sabotage people's freedom struggles.

Push them aside and carry on the struggle

Until people's demands are accomplished.

Sons of the soil, methinks, this is the time

To expose these dangerous elements

And their perfidious activities,

For to nurse their spirit and fellowship

Is to retard the people's genuine cause.

Warn their colleagues abroad that we cannot

Here endure these mischievous elements.

Beloved and resolute people's leaders,

Your sagacious leadership we acknowledge;

Whatever traitors against you say Your names shall ever ascend in history.

D. L. P. YALI-MANISI.
Queenstown.

DON'T BE A SILLY

Well, fancy giving money to the Government!

Might as well have put it down the drain.

Fancy giving money to the Government!

Nobody will see the stuff again.

Well, they've no idea what money's for—

Ten to one they'll start another war.

I've heard a lot of silly things, but, Lor!

Fancy giving money to the Government.

(Too Much—by Sir A. P. Herbert.)

That's probably exactly what you feel when the time for paying taxes comes around, and 'thems our sentiments too!'

BUT WHY TREAT NEW AGE AS IF IT WERE THE GOVERNMENT?

The money you give us certainly doesn't go down the drain. We give you the goods—the finest fighting newspaper on the African continent, one which can hold its own with any similar newspaper in any part of the world.

When you give us money you see the stuff again—transformed into something you can hold in your hands, something you can read for both pleasure

and information.

And New Age knows what money's for; we fight for peace not war. We use it to fight for all the things you stand for—real friendship and true equality among all the peoples of our land and amongst all the nations of the world.

There is just one thing we have in common with the Government: **WE NEED MONEY.** We need it desperately.

JUST LOOK AT THE PITIFUL AMOUNT YOU GAVE US LAST WEEK!

The silliest thing we've ever heard of is the man who knows what New Age means and yet doesn't give a penny to support it.

DON'T BE SILLY! SEND US YOUR DONATION TODAY!

Last Week's Donations:

Johannesburg:

Min collections R2, Hopeful R6, Donations (3) R2.90.

Cape Town:

Anonymous R3.

Grand Total: R13.90.

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FINED R400 FOR INCITEMENT

JOHANNESBURG.

Recently Sam Magalefa and Titus Moalusi were found guilty in the Magistrate's Court here on a charge of incitement. They were sentenced to one years imprisonment or a fine of R400 each.

The case arose out of the distribution of leaflets at the end of May this year calling on the people to support the call for a National Convention and to demonstrate their opposition to the Republic by staying at home.

Both men are out on bail of R400 until the appeal is heard.

MOKHEHLE OUTLINES TRADE UNION POLICY

Advocates Membership On Political Basis

From J. G. Kgasane MASERU.

MR. Ntsu Mokhehle, President of the Basutoland Congress Party outlined his policy towards the trade unions in the protectorate when he addressed a meeting of workers in Maseru on August 17.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. P. Sekhonyane, chairman of the General Workers' Union.

Mr. Mokhehle said that no workers' union could succeed unless the country got political independence first. The question of £1 a day would be discussed after independence.

● There were people in Basutoland who were not faithful but had left their own country after making wild promises and demands about £1 a day. These people claimed to know all about trade unions, but were sowing disharmony in Basutoland.

● Those who joined trade unions in which BCP members worked must be forced to join the BCP and made to produce a BCP membership card before being allowed to join the trade union. Workers who did not support the BCP should form their own trade unions.

TO BE DIVIDED

● In order to prevent "confusion" now present in the General Workers' Union, it should be divided into sections covering particular categories of work under separate leadership and these leaders "must not hinder each other's work."

Thus Mr. Jack Mosiane would be in charge of the local workers; Mr. S. Mokhehle, brother of Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle, would control shop workers; Mr. G. Kolisang, stenographers and printing workers, and so on.

Mr. Mosiane had been given the honour of speaking for all workers

in the past. Now he was to be relieved and confined to his own local union.

LAWYERS FROM S.A.

Mr. Mokhehle said that "people and lawyers from South Africa" were trying to separate the BCP from the General Workers' Union. He named Mr. J. Motlohele as one who was carrying out this policy in Mafeteng and Mohalieshoek.

There was little applause for Mr. Mokhehle, although the hall was filled to capacity with workers and residents of Maseru.



Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK

A 12-HOUR DAY FOR 2s. 3d.?

Startling Disclosures About Natal Coal Mines

JOHANNESBURG.

STARTLING disclosures of wages and working conditions on the coal mines of Hlobane in the district of Vryheid have been made to New Age by one of the mine workers who visited our offices recently.

General labourers working above-ground get a starting wage of 2/3d. per shift of between 11 and 12 hours. They work a seven-day week. After three months they get an increase of the princely sum of 1d. per shift, up to a maximum of 2/6d. per shift.

Coke drawers receive 3/10d. per shift for this highly dangerous work which often results in burnt hands. These workers have to draw coke from ovens throughout their long eleven-hour day. They receive no increases.

These workers begin the day at 2.30 a.m. and have to complete their task (the amount of work they have to do is laid down by the management) by 4.30 p.m. They have two one-hour breaks—for breakfast at 8 a.m. and lunch at 12 noon. They seldom complete their task before 3.30 p.m.

UNDERGROUND

Underground workers get 3/- for each nine-hour shift. They also work a seven-day week. They must also complete their allotted task each day. For instance, tap loaders (those who load mined coal into trucks) have to load 34 trucks per day. Tap pushers (the men who push loaded trucks up to the mine head) have to push all trucks loaded each day. These workers use not only their hands but also their heads to push the heavily loaded trucks. Many of them are bald because of this.

Clerical workers are mainly Africans. They begin work at 4.30 a.m. and end at 4.30 p.m. with two two-hour breaks for breakfast and lunch. They earn on the average 3/- per day. A small number of chief clerks receive from 6/- to 10/- per day.

CRIMES

Any worker who fails to complete his quota of work for the day is promptly charged and the usual sentence is £2 or 28 days imprisonment. Any worker who fails to report for work is fined £2 with the alternative of two weeks imprisonment.

Living quarters are overcrowded and unhygienic. Thirty workers sleep in one room containing 28 cement bunks.

Food is poor and inadequate. Breakfast consists of mealie meal porridge which is often full of weavels, with a piece of brown bread. The workers get nothing for lunch. Supper consists of porridge, boiled mealies and a piece of meat.

Students Arrested At Healdtown

PORT ELIZABETH.

Parents of Healdtown school pupils are angry over the news that about 20 students were arrested last week after the school authorities called in the police to investigate the smashing of window panes at the school.

Without informing their parents, the police locked up the students in the cells at Fort Beaufort for several days, and then released them in the care of the school authorities pending their appearance in court on August 29.

Some parents feel that in view of the frequent arrests at the institution the authorities might as well close the school for the rest of the year. "In any case" said one parent, "how can the pupils study in such an atmosphere of anxiety?"

AFRICAN MUNICIPAL WORKERS FIGHT FOR RECOGNITION

Signature Campaign Among White Rate-Payers

DURBAN.

A ten-man committee to fight for the recognition of the African Municipal Workers' Union was set up at a specially convened meeting of representatives of various organisations held at the City Hall Committee Room, Durban, last week.

The committee will ask European ratepayers to sign a petition calling on the Mayor of Durban to convene a public meeting "at which the question of recognition of trade union rights by the municipality can be discussed."

Mr. M. Vakalisa, secretary of the AMWU, told the meeting that several letters had been written to the City Council on the subject of improved wages and conditions of work, and on each occasion the

Union had been informed that the matter was being investigated.

"Our letters remain unanswered," Mr. Vakalisa said. Our pleas for collective negotiations are ignored, our invitations to the Mayor and councillors to attend our meetings are ignored."

The Durban City Council was well-known for its anti-Nationalist attitude and should therefore set the pace by refusing to support the Nationalist design to bleed African trade unions to death, Mr. Vakalisa added. He said that the so-called Municipal Liaison Committee of appointed members had been thrust upon the workers, in the same way as Bantu Authorities, Bantu Councils and Advisory Boards.

BOLTON ACCUSED

Mr. Vakalisa accused the Chairman of the Liaison Committee, Councillor Bolton, a trade unionist and secretary of the garment and furniture workers' union, of sabotaging the efforts of the municipal workers, by helping to set up the Liaison Committee.

The municipal workers have expressed dissatisfaction with the recent increases received from the Council, and the fight for recognition of their Union is therefore being pressed through the new committee.

Members of the Committee include Mr. R. Morris of the Musgrave Ratepayers Association, Mr. David Evans of the Liberal Party; Messrs L. Bloem and Lionel Gay; lecturers at the University of Natal; Mr. Arvind Desai of the Natal Indian Youth Congress and Mr. Amos Ngoma, former member of

"GENERAL CHINA" GETS R120



Mr. Andrew Chamile, popularly known in Congress circles in Johannesburg as 'General China,' who was recently awarded R120 after he had laid a charge of assault against the Railway Police. General China, who was carrying a parcel of New Age newspapers, was pulled off a train and marched to the offices of the Railway Police, where he was released a short while later with no charge laid against him. He told the Magistrate that the police had handled him very roughly.

CHARGED WITH BEING MEMBER OF ANC

JOHANNESBURG.

MR. T. J. Motsipe, who appeared in the Magistrates' Court here last week on a charge of being or continuing to be a member or office-bearer of an unlawful organisation, was told by the State that the documents found in his house were consistent with a pattern that implied membership of the African National Congress.

The case is dependent on the fact that stickers for the May strike, statements of the Continuation Committee, and a number of Freedom Charters were found in his possession. An ANC receipt (dated prior to the banning of the organisation) and the ANC colours were also found, as well as some partially

burnt reference books. A letter summoning a committee meeting, which mentioned no date or organisation, and an unheaded subscription list, were also found.

During the course of the trial, which lasted three days, the Prosecution handed in a constitution of the now-banned African National Congress, which had not been found on Mr. Motsipe, as part of its evidence.

At the end of the case the Magistrate reserved judgement until September 9. Advocates A. Gani and D. Nokwe appeared for the accused.

The charge of being a member or office-bearer of an unlawful organisation against Mr. Patrick Mtembu was withdrawn.

KWA-MASHU RESIDENTS DEMAND IMPROVEMENTS

DURBAN.

THE Kwa-Mashu Residents' Association, in a 25-point memorandum addressed to the Durban City Council, the Chambers of Commerce and Industries and the Bantu Affairs Department, demands recognition of its Association as the mouthpiece of the residents of Kwa Mashu.

The memorandum follows months of intense organisation and meetings in this area, which is fast developing into one of the largest single African areas in the Province.

Among the demands itemised in the memorandum are:

● That rents be reduced from R6 to R3.50. The memorandum points out that of 6,000 families housed at Kwa-Mashu, 3,747 are in arrears with their rents or loan repayments.

● That the metering of water be abolished until such time as the whole of Durban is metered. Kwa-Mashu is the only area in the City where water is metered.

● That bus fares be reduced to four cents, the same amount which is paid in fares from most Non-White areas to the City.

● That widows should not be ejected from their homes upon the death of their husbands.

● That door to door mail delivery should be immediately carried out as workers find it difficult to go to the local Post Office for their mail as they invariably return late from work.

● That wages be increased commensurate with the increase in the cost of living.

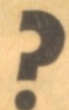
● That free expression of grievances be allowed. Any attempt to force organisations established by the Council and consisting of hand-picked people will not be tolerated.

● That the Council should discontinue confiscation and sale of belongings of so-called deserters from the men's hostel. In some cases, a man may be in hospital and on his return finds his belongings sold.

Other points in the memorandum deal with complaints about the structure of the buildings and demand improvements.

In the meantime yet another application for a meeting of the residents has been turned down by the City Council. New Age was informed that the residents are considering the advisability of taking the Mayor to Court to show cause why the Residents' Association should not be given permission to hold a meeting.

Have you sent your donation this week



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