

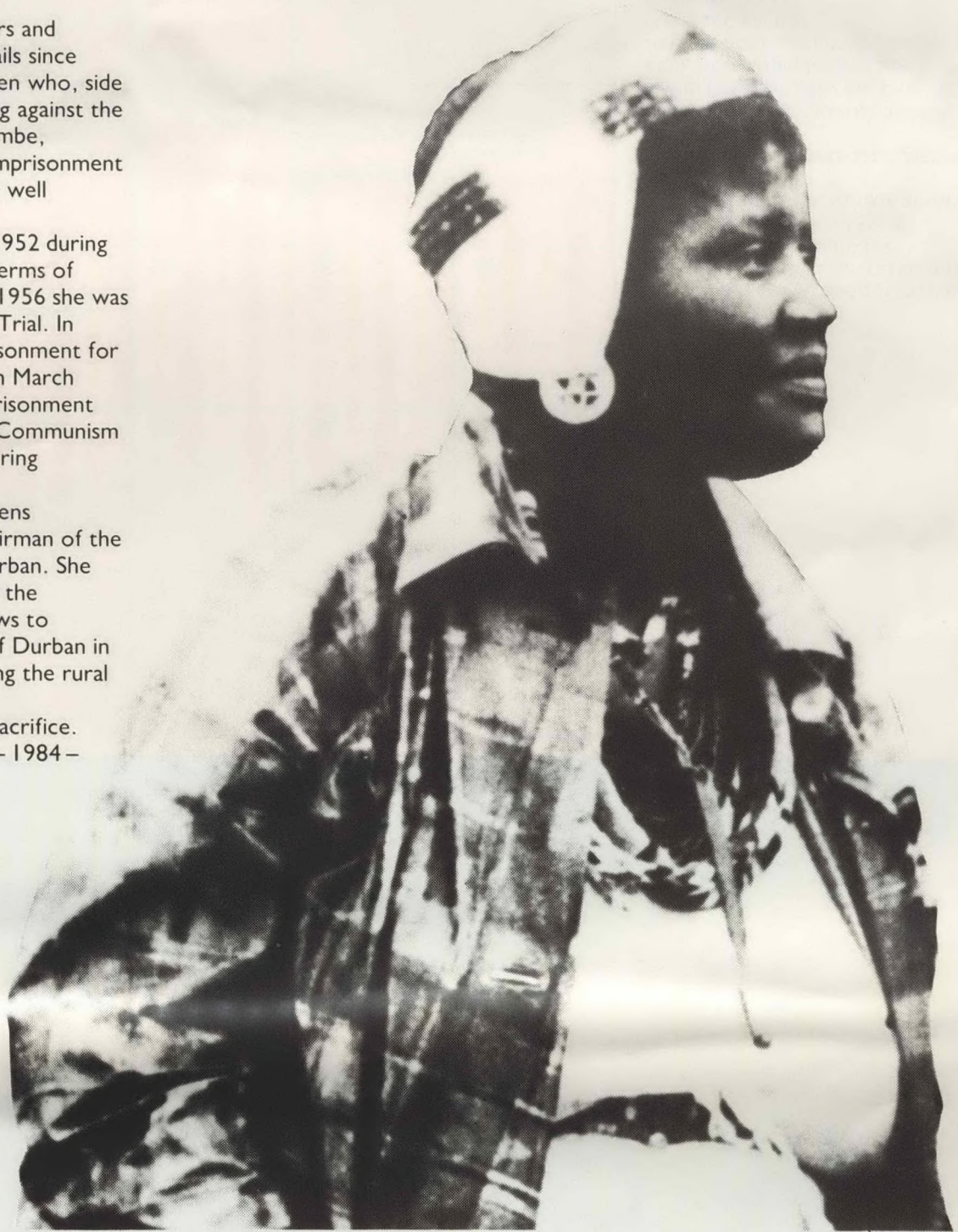
DOROTHY NYEMBE

Among the thousands of political prisoners and detainees incarcerated in South African jails since 1962, there have been hundreds of women who, side by side with the men, have been struggling against the inhuman apartheid regime. Dorothy Nyembe, sentenced to the longest single term of imprisonment handed down to a woman (15 years) may well epitomise them all.

Dorothy Nyembe joined the ANC in 1952 during the Defiance Campaign and served two terms of imprisonment for defying unjust laws. In 1956 she was arrested with 155 others in the Treason Trial. In 1963 she was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for furthering the aims of the ANC. On 26th March 1969 she was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment under the Terrorism and Suppression of Communism Acts, having been found guilty of 'harbouring terrorists'.

Dorothy Nyembe was the ANC Womens Organiser in Natal and was also Vice Chairman of the ANC Womens League Committee in Durban. She played an important part in mobilising for the campaign against the extension of pass laws to women in 1956. She was endorsed out of Durban in 1959 and organised demonstrations among the rural women in Natal.

Hers has been a life of dedication and sacrifice. We salute her in the year of her release - 1984 - The Year of the Women.



OCTOBER 1984 South Africa - the Imprisoned Society! Release all Political Prisoners!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Nigeria Independence Day	2 Guinea RPR Independence Day	3	4 1966 Lesotho Independence	5	6	7
8	9 Uganda Independence Day	10	11 International Day of Solidarity for release of Political Prisoners 1963 - Rivonia accused sentenced	12 Equatorial Guinea Independence Day	13	14
15 1962 - Helen Joseph first person house arrested in SA	16	17	18	19	20	21 Somalia Revolution Day
22	23	24 1964 - Zambia Independence	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 1984 Youth fight against Apartheid

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Algeria Revolution Day	2	3	4
5	6 1964 - Mini, Khayinga and Mkaba executed by fascist regime	7	8	9	10 1947 - Formation of WFDY International Youth Day	11 1975 - Angola Independence
12	13	14	15 1884 - Berlin Conference partitioning Africa	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Mauritania Independence Day	29	30 Benin Revolution Day		

This Path
 Child of the soil
 Child of own destiny
 cross this path
 cross the sword
 ride the lions back and hold the mane
 bound on with shoulders high
 sky in heavens light the path
 echoes from this thorny busy guide
 the way
 Luthuli, Kotane, Mandela, Sisulu trod
 this path
 Pull hard, hack the prickly shrubs
 burden beads on your brow
 pilgrim yoke on your back
 will balm the people's tortured heart
 and bid the sod to seed freedom
 REBECCA MATLOU



Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Hamba – Hamba kahle Mkhonto We Mkhonto, Mkhonto we Sizwe Thina – Thina bant' bomkhonto Sizmisele Ukuwabulala wona amabulu					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 1961 – Tanzania Independence Maseru Massacre – 1983
10	11	12 Kenya Independence Day	13	14	15	16 Heroes Day 1961 – Formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



A Soldier at War (To the Year of the Spear)

a soldier alone in reality I live
with myself and my spear on my shield
alongside in the forest and the heat
in wild-shaped bodies of rock
my comrades the wounded lions
hardly limping but bloody-eyed
fixed on the target that stole the land
with a deadly shrill a call a cry
a shrill that turors brotherhood
– This is the time countryman –
This is the moment patriots!
to strike with the spear, to pierce
the heart of domination, this citadel of
inhumanity

in the heart of this stolen forest
the birds chirp our language comrades
they speak in defiance of the usurper
they lead us to hives of honey bee
to inherit the acid sting of mother bee

come friends to the forest of rest
feast of knowledge of bow and arrow
feast of whispers of spear on flight
the bush beckons all to the bush school
to track and trace the drum of past
that speak a language of roars and claws
the melody of music which allures
all dispossessed crippled . . . mute . . . blind . . .

to dance the rhythm of the bush
wild in rhythm of the bush dance
this family indeed has mastered the sound
the drum that horn of signal
presenting the clouds of battle
the rhythm patriots is a daring dance
echoing thick the dish of the morrow
in this dance of the forest brother
the dancer and melody are twinned
to mingle in clouds of dusty brew
to shape in tide of sounds
that hoot the knell of doom
its no miracle we are blood-eyed
we are of the epoch of the spear
we will rendezvous at the known Ithaleni¹
to march in battle through Ulundi²
Isandhlwana³ drips on our spear tips

can you mothers feel this note in your navels
can you feel your tits itch to be sucked
can you scratch your ears
to the note of retrieve
this is the echo from the bush of the disowned
this is the tide from inheritors of the forest
the pulse of Isandhlwana flows in our blood

the spear shall battle to retrieve
the chains of Maluti and Majuba⁴
the fishes that swim in the Orange⁵
trees that fruit on our own ground
shall juice tongues of brave mothers
to hail and anoint and feather
the holders of this spear, this hilt

we are of the bush and forest
this is no inchoation plunderers
this is the tradition of Isandhlwana
we are the children of the spear

1. Ithaleni is a place in Zululand

2. Ulundi was the Capital of Cetshwayo, King of the Zulus

3. Where a British army was wiped out by Cetshwayo's forces in 1879

4. The Maluti and Hajuba are mountains

5. A river.

REBECCA MATLOU

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READ VOW – VOICE OF WOMEN
Voice of the ANC Women's Section

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