

17/10/730

## DON'T MOURN — MOBILISE!

On the eve of the Seventh Anniversary of the Soweto uprisings, the Apartheid regime once more demonstrated its callous disregard for human life. At 7am, on Thursday, the 9th of June, 1983, the Pretoria hangman committed his foul deed, and Simon Mogoerane, Jerry Mosololi and Marcus Thabo Motaung were murdered.

But it was a murder that could not be hidden, for throughout the world thousands of voices were raised in protest. Vigils, protest demonstrations and church services took place in almost every capital city in the world — condemning apartheid tyranny and paying tribute to the courage and fortitude of the three gallant ANC freedom fighters.

International protests, mounted over many months, climaxed with urgent last-minute appeals to the Pretoria regime for clemency by many governments, heads of state and organisations. Amongst such appeals were calls for a stay of execution from the United Nations, the OAU, the Non-Aligned Movement, the ten EEC countries, including the British Foreign Secretary, Italy's President Sandro Pertini, and more than 50 US Congressmen and Senators including Walter Mondale, Edward Kennedy and Julian Dixon, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. The worldwide anti-apartheid movement spared no effort in campaigns to save the lives of the 'Moroka Three'.

In South Africa the banner headline 'The Nation Weeps' captured the mood of the people and the country exploded into scenes of deep anger and anguish. In every part of our land the people paid homage to these martyrs of our just revolution. From Wednesday morning 24-hour vigils were begun in many parts of South Africa and indeed the world. The mood was sombre but defiant. Throughout the night freedom songs were sung, and voices were raised in praise of the three soldiers of Umkhonto we Sizwe.

At 5am church bells tolled throughout Soweto. Amid a massive security clampdown in Pretoria the three men were led to the gallows. Mindful of the impact of Solomon Mahlangu's haunting last words: 'My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Tell my people that I love them and that they must continue the struggle', spoken as he walked tall to the gallows on April 6th, 1979, the regime feared to give details of the hangings, and the only witnesses were the officials directly involved.

These murders took place in a city in a state of siege. Police in camouflage uniforms stood guard outside Pretoria Central Prison. Newsmen and photographers were kept 100 metres away. All passers-by were stopped and questioned as to where they were going. Church Square, including the 'Palace of Justice', was sealed off by a tight cordon manned by a special task force. Police vehicles with dogs were posted all around the prison, and the racist judges who had both imposed and upheld the death sentences (Justice Curlewis and Justice de Villiers) have been placed under tight police protection, fearing the justice of the people.

The murder of the three heroes provoked peoples' anger nationwide. Police vehicles were set alight, buses were stoned, students and workers, young and old, men and women, marched through the streets proudly holding aloft the black, green and gold flag of the people. Banners, also in black, green and gold, hung

defiantly in many halls where protest meetings were held. Speeches were punctuated with shouts of 'Amandla!' and the cry Long Live the Freedom Charter resounded the length and breadth of our country.

The regime's response was to immediately ban all future meetings organised to protest against the murders, preventing the parents of the three carrying their sons' messages to gatherings organised nationwide. Yet even this tactic failed, for one of the high points of the June 16th memorial service at Regina Mundi in Soweto was an address by Mrs Sarah Mosololi. Describing her last meeting with her son Jerry in the Pretoria Central Prison, she said: 'When he kissed me, he said "Be brave. We are prepared for this". He said we should tell the people he was happy, that we should thank them for their support and that they should carry on if they can.'

Simon Mogoerane, Jerry Mosololi and Marcus Motaung were soldiers of Umkhonto we Sizwe, and as such should have been treated as prisoners of war. Their murder was a deliberate violation of social justice and international law. The ANC, (unlike the racist apartheid regime) in keeping with its humane principles and concern for the life and dignity of humankind, has signed the relevant Geneva Protocols which guarantee prisoner of war status for captured enemy soldiers.

There is a war going on in South Africa, a people's war against the tyrannical apartheid system. Sacrifice, dedication and commitment to total liberation is the guarantee that victory is certain and that our just cause will triumph. These three militants have paid the supreme sacrifice, and their names will forever be inscribed on the nation's scroll of honour. The words of Mrs Sarah Mosololi will haunt the regime until the hour of our victory: 'Go well, my son. I am proud of you because you are to die for your people. You must know the struggle will not end even after your death.'

The white minority regime knows that this is the beginning of the end.

### PICK UP THEIR WEAPONS!

There is nothing the enemy can do to divert us from the path of revolution. Today we can and will answer the regime's tyranny bullet for bullet — and the enemy knows this. We are able to make advances with arms in hand, growing stronger every day. Join Umkhonto we Sizwe! In the words of President O R Tambo: *Umkhonto we Sizwe, born in the Sixties, fighting side by side with victorious armies in Southern Africa, and now with the Namibian heroic armed forces, has got the challenge of moving against the enemy across the land. Umkhonto we Sizwe has started; the people must join. We cannot pause — our victory is calling!*

REMEMBER THEM IN ACTION!

## FORWARD TO VICTORY!

17/10/83 NO. 10

## WE DIP OUR BANNER IN SALUTE TO HEROES OF THE REVOLUTION — MURDERED BY THE APARTHEID REGIME ON JUNE 9th, 1983

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Today, at dawn, the Pretoria regime carried out a cold-blooded murder. Three members of the African National Congress, combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Simon Mogoerane, Jerry Mosololi and Thabo Motaung, are dead. In flagrant and deliberate violation of international law, Botha and his accessories joined together to kill these prisoners of war. The cabal, which has no regard for the most elementary notions of human decency, carried out its crime despite appeals by our people, by governments and representatives of millions of people throughout the world.

The African National Congress hereby extends its heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyred heroes and commends them for their steadfastness in defence of what their loved ones stood for. We salute the international community which raised its voice in a noble effort to save the lives of these patriots. We hail our own people who stood by their sons to the last second of their lives. We lower our flags to the eternal memory of our departed comrades, who have perished because they dared to fight for the national emancipation of their people, for democracy, non-racialism and peace. At the very end of their brief but heroic lives, they chose to die with honour rather than to demean themselves with craven pleas to their captors.

Their example and their sacrifice must and will, for us, serve as a call to battle. The apartheid regime of terror has done its will. Through struggle, the will of the people of South Africa, with the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe at their head, shall prevail in the not too distant future. The perpetrators of this latest crime will be brought to book.

Farewell, Dear Comrades,  
The cause for which you sacrificed will surely triumph

Alfred Nzo  
Secretary General  
9th June, 1983



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**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

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