

THOKOZA (ALBERTON)

The further particulars to the indictment (p.77) allege that violence, rioting and intimidation occurred since November 1984 when the Thokoza Progressive Party organised. Houses were attacked and a policeman murdered.

No oral evidence was led in respect of this township.

It was admitted by the defence that in the period November 1984 to 30 April 1985 a post office was stoned and thereafter set alight. A crowd threw stones at trains and police patrols and beerhalls were set alight. Three councillors houses were attacked and a policeman was killed. Exh AAS.3.

The state relied on certain documents to prove its case. The defence contested their admissibility and submitted that there was no allegation or proof that the Thokoza Progressive Party was an affiliate of the UDF.

The question of admissibility has been dealt with under our chapter dealing with the law.

Exh C.99 is a report on a civic workshop. It is undated but was not written before 1984 and was found in the UDF offices, Johannesburg on 23 July 1985.

It indicates that ERAPO had a branch in Thokoza. We do not know who the author is or what the name of the branch was.

Exh C.110 is a report on the UDF and Black local authorities dated February 1985 which was found in the UDF offices, Johannesburg on 23 July 1985. It claims the resignation of councillors as an important victory for the UDF and its affiliates in local areas in the campaign against Black local authorities. In an annexure the resignation of the mayor of Thokoza in January 1985 is mentioned. In a further annexure the date is given as November 1984 and the local organisation as Thokoza Progressive Party.

Exh C.118 is an emergency UDF working document under the letter-head of the Transvaal Regional office dated 25 September 1984 and found on 15 February 1985 in possession of E A Saloojee, the national treasurer of the UDF in Johannesburg. It mentions the UDF's "victories of the past few weeks" and in the light of detentions and suppressive measures suggests the immediate establishment of inter alia an East Rand Area Committee including Thokoza amongst other townships, with assignment the community worker and students' struggles. As area committees consist of affiliates this pre-supposes a UDF presence in Thokoza.

Exhs W.21 pp.8 and 9 and W.32 take the state's case no further.

The first-mentioned three documents at best for the state show:

1. That the UDF claimed that the mayor of Thokoza resigned as a result of the activities of the Thokoza Progressive Party.  
(The column in which that name appears contains also the names of known non-affiliates. One cannot conclude therefore that it conveys that Thokoza Progressive Party is affiliated.)
2. That ERAPO, an affiliate of the UDF, had a branch in Thokoza at a time in 1984 or 1985.
3. That there was violence directed at a certain type of targets.

These facts do not prove the state's case as pleaded.

## **DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985-1989**

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