



Minutes after this photograph was taken, Suliman 'Babla' Saloojee, the man on the stretcher, was dead. He had hurtled from the 7th floor of Security Police headquarters in Johannesburg.

No one will ever know the full story of what was done to 'Babla' before his death. He had been a 90 Day detainee, held in solitary confinement for interrogation. A case of suicide, the South African police say

Suicide under torture is murder

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# Mandate for terror

The 90-day law (official title: General Laws Amendment Act 1963) gives a mandate to South Africa's Security Police to break the back of all political opposition to apartheid — and the health and sanity of South Africans of all races is being broken in the process. This is being done with a zeal and a fervour reminiscent of Nazi Germany and Franco Spain.

A strict security screen has not stopped news leaking out of the jails, crammed full with Verwoerd's political prisoners. "Babla" Saloojee killed himself during an interrogation session. His was not the first death.

■ Looksmart Solwandle Ngudle committed suicide in his Pretoria cell in September 1963.

■ In January 1964 Siphon James Tyitya hanged himself in his Port Elizabeth cell to end his torture.

## The short-cut: Torture

900 people of all races have been held in solitary confinement under the 90-Day law. When the suspense of arrest without charge or trial and endless detention incommunicado does not break them fast enough, the Security Police have resorted to torture.

**African detainee P.N.** said: "A canvas hood was put over my head and I was ordered to sit in a squatting position and a stick was placed between my arms and knees so that I was helpless. Meantime I found breathing difficult because of the hood. I felt that some strings were being tied over my two little fingers. Then I was lifted up by two men by means of the stick and they told me to say 'goodbye to mother earth' as they would kill me. I felt electric shocks, and these men dropped me to the floor and kept shocking me. . . ."

Canvas hoods and electric shocks in this instance. After the publicity of some cases of electric torture the Security Branch improvised a new torture, one that would leave no marks.

**Ivan Schermbrucker**, manager of progressive newspapers till they were banned by the government, smuggled a note out of prison describing the "**statue**" torture. "I stood for 28 hours without moving an inch from 12 p.m. yesterday till 4 p.m. this afternoon. Questioning under these conditions is the most terrible and cruel form of torture. . . . I nearly committed suicide by jumping out of the window. . . ."

## 'No Rules'

Questioned by the press about this statue torture a police official said no rules were laid down as to the time or place or duration of interrogation. A 2-ft. square chalked on the floor could be regarded as a "place." So the statue torture goes on.

So do assaults, against women as well as men, Whites as well as Africans. Their crime: hatred and active opposition to apartheid.

## 'Release them' said U.N.

106 nations meeting in session at the United Nations demanded the release of all South African political prisoners. Who are they, apart from the 90-Day detainees held without trial?

■ Dockers' leader Vuyisile Mini, Wilson Khayingo and Zinakile Mkaba were victims of judicial murder when hanged in Pretoria on November 6 1964 despite world-wide appeals for clemency.

■ On Robben Island are the men of the Rivonia Trial, condemned to life imprisonment: Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Elias Motsoaledi, Andrew Mlangeni, Raymond Mhlaba, Ahmed Kathrada, and in Pretoria, Dennis Goldberg.

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■ On Robben Island is Robert Sobukwe, leader of the Pan-Africanist Congress, who served his sentence of three years' hard labour and is now held indefinitely behind bars, without even a court sentence to justify this incarceration.

■ A total of 3,355 people of all races have been detained under various "security" laws during 1963, among them 592 in the Transkei.

■ Since last year there have been 111 political trials in which 1,315 persons have been charged. Their fates: 44 sentenced to death, 12 sentenced to life imprisonment, 994 sentenced to a total of 5,713 years' imprisonment, 1 sentenced to six lashes, 340 acquitted.

■ There are unknown numbers awaiting trial. Many will go undefended. Held many miles from their homes, they have no access to family or lawyers, and monies for defences are running out.

## Hostages of Apartheid

Not all these men and women share the same political outlook, but in common they hold a dedication to the struggle to end the shame and terror of apartheid. Some of the prisoners, like Mandela, have claimed the moral right to meet the force of oppression with the force of resistance. Others belong to a lawful parliamentary party like the Liberal Party. Some prisoners have been arrested as hostages for relatives out of the reach of the police. More than 300 90-day detainees were released without being charged of any crime.

The Security Branch arrests, detains, releases or charges as it sees fit. The courts and independent judicial supervision are being whittled away. The racial injustices of apartheid are being entrenched by a state of open police terror. The thousands of political prisoners are the chief victims.

## Protests save lives!

The protests of the world saved the men of the Rivonia trial from the death sentence. There is no doubt about that. The rallies, the protests, the deputations, the anger of men and women in many countries stayed the hand of the South African Government.

South African apartheid is fascist rule, turning its policies from the influences of civilised government of the twentieth century. Yet no country is an island, able to exist indefinitely in isolation. There would be none of the official apologetics for apartheid by South Africa if she did not feel the world breathing down her neck.

It is possible to stop these things. A halt has to be called **now**. The world waited too long in the case of Germany and when the cries of those in the hands of the Gestapo were ignored, war enveloping us all ensued. In the beginning the stories that filtered out of Algerian jails were ignored, and seven years of war followed. On the surface South Africa is sunny, prosperous and enjoying boom conditions. But you must listen to the words of the notes smuggled out of the prisons: this is the evidence that cannot be denied.

## Britain shares the guilt

A recent United Nations report says that Britain's holdings in South Africa — of "overwhelming importance" in every major investment category — make her the leading creditor country by a wide margin. In 1962, the latest year for which data is available, Britain held three-fifths of all foreign investments in South Africa, exceeding those of all other countries in both the private and public sectors of investment. Seven per cent of all British overseas investment is in South Africa.

This is complicity in the crimes of apartheid. Britain is not a disinterested by-stander. She shares the burden of guilt.

# What to do?

Spread the truth. **The last British Government got away with too much : this one must not be allowed to.**

## Send your protests to :

Dr. Carel de Wet,  
South Africa House,  
Trafalgar Square,  
London, W.C.2.

## Copies to :

U Thant,  
United Nations,  
New York.

## and :

Anti-Apartheid Movement,  
89 Charlotte Street,  
London, W.1.

**Speakers, literature, membership forms, available from:**

**Anti-Apartheid Movement  
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