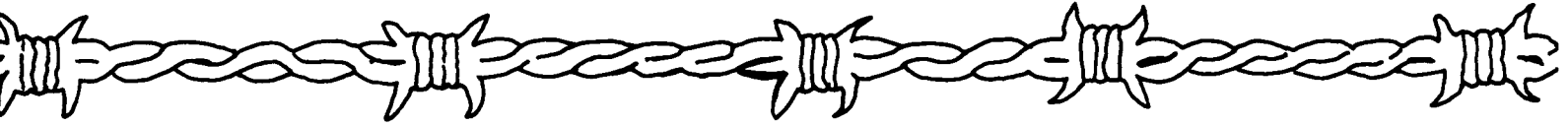


FREE THE



VAAAL 22



**STOP ALL
SOUTH AFRICAN
POLITICAL TRIALS**



In Delmas, a small town in South Africa, twenty two people including some of the leading members of the *United Democratic Front* (UDF), are facing treason charges in a major show trial. This trial, the second major one in the last year involving the UDF, clearly demonstrates the extent to which the apartheid regime uses its legal system as a further method of repression to isolate and restrict the political activities of their opponents.

Since September 1984 there has been unprecedented and sustained resistance to apartheid throughout South Africa. During this period which included the *Declaration of a State of Emergency* between July 1985 and March 1986 over 1500 people have lost their lives and many thousands have been detained and arrested. The regime is using all its repressive machinery to try and ensure the maintenance of apartheid and this includes extensive recourse to the apartheid courts.

More than 25000 people have faced charges arising out of mass resistance in 1985 and there was a record number of political trials last year. The political trial is a regular and constant feature, its use reflecting the level of resistance. The political trial is a crucial aid to the regime as long as the international community believe that it is possible for the judiciary to be independent of the system and that the legal process in South Africa meet internationally accepted norms of justice. It is this myth that the regime relies upon when it attacks the UDF through the apartheid courts. It is however becoming increasingly clear to the wider community that this carefully projected image of an independent legal system no longer has any credibility. For the opponents of apartheid it has long been recognised that the law and courts are used systematically to suppress opposition.

Since the time of its formation in 1983 the UDF, comprising more than 600 organisations representing over 2 million people has posed a serious challenge to the regime. The UDF has been the most prominent lawful organisation within the

country mobilising mass opposition to apartheid. The full '*legal*' force of the state has been used against the UDF in addition to killing, detention, banning and torturing of hundreds of its members. In December 1985 the first major show trial involving 16 of the leaders of the UDF, who were also charged with treason, lawfully collapsed in Pietermaritzburg when charges were withdrawn against 12 of the accused. The remaining four – the SAAW 4 – are still facing these political charges.

The twenty two accused in Delmas, all of whom have been in detention for over a year are charged with participating in a '*conspiracy of the ANC/SWAPU and the UDF to overthrow the State with violence*'. The charges include a main one of treason, 3 counts of subversion, 5 counts of murder and last November a further charge was added of '*furthering the aims of the ANC*'. These all arise out of the massive wave of unrest that swept the Vaal area of South Africa in September 1983, unrest that has magnified and spread across the country. The charges of murder relate to the death of several 'town councillors' who being widely recognised as collaborators with the regime have become the focus of the increasing anger and frustration of the people.

To of the accused, Patrick 'Terror' Lekota and Popo Molefe are the Publicity Secretary and the General Secretary respectively of the UDF; most of the accused have dependent families and all have been refused bail preventing them from continuing any political activity or from earning a livelihood.

The trial opened on 21st January 1986 and the large number of prosecution witnesses (mainly policemen) and the nature of the trial indicate that it will be extremely lengthy.





Back row, left to right: Moses Chikane, Naphtali Nkopane, Thomas Mantbata, Tsietsi Mpbuthi, Geoffrey Moselane, Patrick Baleka, Petru Mokoena, Lazarus More.
Middle row: Sam Mollole, Bavumile Vilakazi, Patrick Lekota, Gcinnumuzi Malindi, Serame Hlanyane, Thabiso Ratsomo, Sekuati Mokoena.
Front row: Jerry Tiboqane, Simon Vilakazi, Oupa Hlomoka, Popo Molefe, Amos Malindi, Ephraim Ramagula, Simon Nkoli.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

It is essential at this time of increasing mass resistance to apartheid that we campaign strongly against the use of the legal process in South Africa to suppress the activities of anti-apartheid activists.

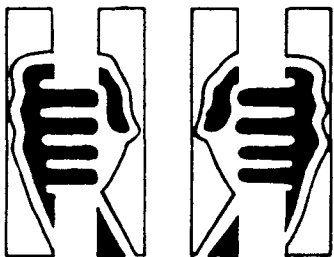
WRITE

- To the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mrs Lynda Chalker, MP, urging the British Government to put pressure on the South African authorities to stop the trial of the VAAL 22 and all political trials in South Africa and Namibia.
- To your MP urging him/her to raise the issue of this trial with the Government.
- To your local press to generate publicity for the case of the VAAL 22.

SUPPORT

The SATIS Emergency Campaign against Repression in South Africa and Namibia and receive regular campaign information about political trials, prisoners, detentions, torture and repression under apartheid.

SATIS (South Africa the Imprisoned Society) brings together a wide range of organisations campaigning against repression in South Africa and Namibia. Alliance of Radical Methodists, Anti-Apartheid Movement, British Defence and Aid Fund, COSAWR, Haldane Society, International Defence and Aid Fund, Liberation, National League of Young Liberals, Namibia Support Committee, National Union of Students, Pax Christi, Society of Black Lawyers, UNA Youth Council.



SATIS

c/o Anti-Apartheid Movement
13 Mandela Street
London NW1 0DW
Tel: 01 387 7966

I/We would like _____ copies of the Vaal 22
Briefing Paper 40p

I/We would like more information about
SATIS

I/We would like _____ copies of the SATIS
Pamphlet "Political Trials in South Africa"
25p

Name _____
Address _____

Organisation _____

I/We enclose £_____ for material and
£_____ donation