

WORLD CAMPAIGN

FOR THE RELEASE OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

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ACT NOW TO SAVE RIVONIA ACCUSED!

THE danger of the death sentence being passed against the nine leading opponents of apartheid who are on trial for their lives in the so-called "Rivonia" sabotage case has been greatly increased as a result of the savage sentences recently meted out by the courts to A.N.C. leaders in the Eastern Cape.

In a case in Port Alfred three leading members of the African National Congress—Vuyisile Mini, Zinakele Kaba and Wilson Khayinga—were sentenced to death at the conclusion of a case in which they were charged with 17 counts of sabotage, propagating the aims of the banned A.N.C. by addressing meetings and recruiting members with the object of sending them to foreign countries for military training, and murder, because they were held responsible for the death of an informer who was to have given evidence in sabotage cases.

In a case in Queenstown Washington Bongco, volunteer-in-chief of the regional committee of the A.N.C. in East London, was sentenced to death when he was found guilty on six of 13 counts of sabotage. The judge, Mr. Justice Cloete, described Mr. Bongco as "one of the evil geniuses behind the acts of sabotage in East London". He was also found guilty of being a member of the regional committee of the A.N.C. in East London, of soliciting money for the A.N.C. and taking an active part in the affairs of the organisation.

Five other members of the A.N.C. in a series of trials at Queenstown were sentenced to between 15 and 20 years imprisonment for sabotage.

In Port Elizabeth three Africans were sentenced to three, eight and 12 years imprisonment respectively for burning down the shop of Memory Maneli, official representative of the stooge Chief Minister of the Transkei, Keiser Matanzima, in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, in September last year.

The effect of these trials is to accustom the public to the idea that members of

the A.N.C. can be sentenced to death for sabotage—a political crime created by the Minister of Justice Mr. Vorster and under which the onus of proving innocence is placed upon the accused.

If these ghastly sentences are allowed to pass without protest, the danger to the Rivonia accused is obvious. The trials of these leaders will be regarded as a precedent. If Mini, Kaba, Khayinga and

Bongco can be sentenced to death, what is the reason to expect the judge in the Rivonia trial to pass a lesser sentence on the top leaders of the Congress movement, who are charged not with 6 or even 12 acts of sabotage, but with responsibility for 192 acts of sabotage committed between 1961 and 1963, with plans for guerrilla warfare and invasion of South Africa by trained partisans assisted by a foreign power?

The prosecution case in the Rivonia trial was closed at the end of February and the defence is due to open on April 20, 1964. A verdict can be expected by the end of April or the middle of May.

THIS LEAVES VERY LITTLE TIME

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THE MEN FACING DEATH

VUYISILE MINI—has been a leading member of the banned African National Congress in the Cape Province for many years. He was born in 1920 and from the age of 17 has been actively participating in local and national campaigns which included action against rent and bus fare increases, mass removals and industrial strikes. He was a leading member of the non-racial South African Congress of Trade Unions. In 1952 he served a term of imprisonment as a volunteer in the Defiance of Unjust Laws Campaign during which over 9,000 South Africans went to jail. He was one of the 156 charged with treason in 1956 but later discharged when the State case collapsed. He was also detained during the 1960 State of Emergency. Mini, who is a married man with children, has composed many freedom songs, and while in jail under 90-day detention preceding his present trial he kept up the spirits of his fellow detainees by leading them in singing.

WILSON KHAYINGA—aged 39, is married and has four children. He has been a member of the executive committee of the Zakhele Branch (Port Elizabeth) of the A.N.C. and has played a leading part in the freedom struggle, championing the cause of the workers for better living conditions and higher wages. He was a member of the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

ZINAKELE KABA—is married and has been an active member of the New Brighton (Port Elizabeth) branch of the A.N.C. Like his comrades he has also fought and striven courageously for the rights of his people and has been active in the trade unions as a member of S.A.C.T.U.

WASHINGTON BONGCO—a leading member of the A.N.C. in East London. When first arrested early in 1963, he was subjected to brutal torture by the police in an attempt to get him to confess. But as this was before the 90-day no trial law came into operation, the police had to release him when they failed to break him down. Later he was arrested under the 90-day no-trial law and again severely tortured before being brought to trial.

These men, who have been sentenced to die, are the heroes of the South African resistance!

To help save their lives is to strike a blow for the freedom of the oppressed peoples in South Africa groaning under the ruthless Verwoerd tyranny.

TORTURE— of Prisoners in South Africa

ON February 1st in the House of Assembly, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Vorster, said that forty-nine complaints of assaults by policemen or prison warders on 90-day detainees have been made to the police. Amongst them twenty detainees said they had been given electric shocks. Asked whether any of the cases were found to be of substance, Mr. Vorster said 'No'.

While Mr. Vorster is busy denying torture and maltreatment of detainees, four of his own policemen are being charged with murder and assault of African prisoners before the Supreme Court in Bloemfontein. In this case the prisoners are not political, but the evidence of torture is the same, as the following extracts from South African newspapers show:

Rand Daily Mail, 26-2-64: "Bloemfontein—While an African was in "a completely helpless position" he was blindfolded and wire placed behind his ear which caused him to "jerk" so much that he choked and could not scream, the Free State Supreme Court was told.

"The African Mr. Philemon Makhethla was giving evidence before the Judge-President of the Free State at the trial of four Bultfontein policemen and a Clerk of the Court on charges of murder and assault with intent to murder.

Rand Daily Mail, 4-3-64: "Johannes

Matlahotsoi told the court today that he was arrested by Maree and Coetzee and taken to the Bultfontein police station with Izak, Philemon and Abel. He was handcuffed and his hands pulled over the front of his knees. A broomstick was forced past the back of his knees and over his arms. A blindfold was placed over his eyes.

"The witness said he was hit on the hands with what felt like a sjambok. Maree asked where the money was. Johannes said he cried and screamed.

"Johannes was made to sit barefooted on the wet floor. He was handcuffed and blindfolded again and a piece of cloth stuffed into his mouth. What felt like two pieces of wire were attached to his little fingers. Johannes heard a "burning" sound and his body was "painfully jerked many times."

Star, 9-3-64: "The witness said he saw Maree and van Wyk hitting Izak in his face with fists and kicking him about the body. Izak was screaming. Coetzee also hit and kicked Izak. Coetzee and Maree then lifted Izak up and threw him to the floor.

"Rossouw entered the room and Maree rushed to a telephone. The witness said he heard Maree ask Dr. Le Roux to hurry to the police station. Rossouw said: 'Boys what am I going to do now?' When the Doctor arrived he examined Izak and said he was dead.

"Coetzee took an electric "shocking machine" and said: 'We are going to throw this away. It will get us into trouble'."

GESTAPO METHODS

This nightmarish story is but one of the many cases of the vicious brutality of the South African police. Despite the growing evidence of similar torture experienced by political detainees at the hands of the police and the "Special Branch," the Minister of Justice, Mr. Vorster, recently shrugged off a demand by Mrs. Helen Suzman (Progressive Party M.P.) "for an independent judicial inquiry into the allegations by 90-day detainees of electric shock torture and beatings in prisons and police stations." (*Rand Daily Mail*, 7-2-64).

S.A.C.T.U. MEN GET 20 YEARS

THE biggest political trial ever held in Natal ended in Maritzburg on February 28 when 18 Africans and Indians were sentenced in the Supreme Court by the Judge President of Natal, Mr. Justice Milne, to terms of imprisonment ranging from 5 years to 20 years each for sabotage.

Those who got 20 years were Billy Nair and Curnick Ndhlovu. Billy Nair, aged 34, is a Natal-born Indian who was active for many years in the Natal Indian Congress. Before his arrest he was secretary of the Durban branch of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions and also a member of the national executive of SACTU.

Curnick Ndhlovu, aged 31, was educated up to standard 6 and then worked as a railway porter. He helped to organise the non-white Railway Workers' Union of which he became secretary in 1960. In the same year he was elected assistant secretary of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions. He was also a member of the African National Congress until it was outlawed in 1960. He himself was banned from attending gatherings in April 1963.

Protests

In a statement issued in London the World Campaign for the Release of South African Political Prisoners protested in the strongest terms against the vicious sentences given to Mr. Nair and Mr. Ndhlovu. Appeals have also been issued to the ICFTU, the WFTU, the International Catholic Unions, the International Transport Federation and other trade union bodies asking them to protest against these outrageous sentences.

Replies received so far include one from Mr. George Woodcock, General Secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, who wrote: "The General Council (of the T.U.C.) have repeatedly and strongly expressed the movement's condemnation of apartheid policies and of oppressive measures used to enforce them".

Mr. James Jack, General Secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, wrote: "My General Council have protested direct to the Prime Minister of South Africa and his Minister of Justice, at the same time informing the South African Ambassador in London and our own Prime Minister of our protest and representations".

ANTI-APARTHEID ADOPTS EMERGENCY PROGRAMME

The British Anti-Apartheid Movement has adopted an emergency programme on the question of the political prisoners, in an urgent effort to force the British Government to intervene to save the lives of those threatened with death sentences, especially in the Rivonia trial:

- a special leaflet is being produced on the Rivonia trial;
- a leaflet addressed to workers and trade unionists is being circulated on the death sentence passed on Vuyisile Mini and his colleagues;
- approaches are to be made to the Foreign Office to intervene with the South African authorities;
- arrangements are being made for lobbying of M.P.'s to commence within hours of sentence being passed in the Rivonia trial.

Students and South African volunteers have announced their intention of organising demonstrators with posters demanding the freeing of the Rivonia accused to follow the South African Ambassador whenever he appears at public functions.

HELP SAVE RIVONIA ACCUSED

90 Day

Protest Committee

(Continued from p. 1)

FOR WORLD OPINION TO MAKE ITSELF FELT. LET DEMOCRATS IN EVERY COUNTRY DEMAND: "END THESE DEATH TRIALS IN SOUTH AFRICA! FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!"

THE WORLD PROTESTS

Organisations and leaders of the African people have been quick off the mark with protests. In *Dar-es-Salaam* the African National Congress immediately sent telegrams to the Secretary General of the United Nations, U Thant, and to the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference then meeting in Algiers, protesting against the death sentences imposed on Mini and his colleagues.

"Verwoerd Government are deliberately flouting U.N. resolution and paving way for judicial murders in other trials", said the telegram to the U.N. "Situation grave and warrants emergency Security Council meeting".

U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, has made an "urgent and earnest appeal" to South Africa not to execute African nationalists who face death sentences for their opposition to the government's racial policies. He asked the Government not to go ahead with sentences "so as to prevent an aggravation of the situation and to facilitate peaceful efforts to resolve the situation".

In London the Anti-Apartheid Movement sent a telegram to the South African Ambassador protesting against the death sentences.

CONGRATULATIONS

Duma Nokwe, Secretary General of the African National Congress of South Africa, cabled from their Dar-es-Salaam office expressing his congratulations for the work the World Campaign is doing for the release of South African political prisoners and requesting us to "tirelessly continue noble efforts".

Oliver Tambo, Deputy President of the African National Congress also sent a message of thanks and encouragement to ceaselessly continue our efforts until the United Nations' Resolution is fully implemented, and the reign of terror on political opponents of the South African Government is halted.

In Lusaka the Prime Minister of Northern Rhodesia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, appealed to the State President of South Africa, Mr. C. R. Swart, to commute the death sentences passed on Mini and his colleagues.

Dr. Kaunda sent the telegram in his capacity as chairman of the Pan African Freedom Movement for East, Central and South Africa, with copies to the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity.

The volume of protest must swell to a flood which will make it clear to the White Supremacists in South Africa that THESE JUDICIAL MURDERS MUST STOP!

ACT NOW TO SAVE MINI, KABA, KHAYINGA AND BONGCO FROM THE GALLOWS!

BY SAVING THEM YOU WILL BE HELPING TO SAVE MANDELA, SISULU AND THE OTHER LEADERS AT RIVONIA FROM A SIMILAR FATE.

BUT ACT NOW! TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE!

It is to be hoped that the new 90-day Detention Protest National Committee recently set up in South Africa will intensify its fight on behalf of the detainees. This committee was formed in February by representatives of the Institute of Race Relations, the National Council of Women, the National Union of South African Students, the Civil Rights League and the Black Sash. Chairman is Mr. Hamilton Russell, former United Party M.P. who resigned from the Party and from Parliament when the U.P. voted for the 90-day detention law in 1963. Later Mr. Hamilton Russell returned to the political scene and joined the Progressive Party because he had been outraged by reports of what was happening to 90-day detainees and felt he had to do something about it.

We hope conscience will prick other South Africans to follow Mr. Russell's example until this hideous stain on South Africa is removed.

VISITS TO THE EMBASSIES

The World Campaign for the Release of South African Political Prisoners organised a series of deputations to Commonwealth and Afro-Asian Embassies in order to discuss with them ways and means of implementing the United Nation's Resolution demanding the release of all South African political prisoners and the abandonment of the Rivonia trial.

The deputations consisted of representatives from organisations serving on the World Campaign Committee—the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Africa Bureau, Christian Action, Amnesty International, the Movement for Colonial Freedom, United Nations Association, the African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress. Several Members of Parliament participated in these deputations amongst them Dick Taverne (member of the Committee), Fenner Brockway, Eric Lubbock, John Stonehouse, Anthony Wedgewood Benn, Neil Carmichael and Mrs. Judith Hart.

The Embassies and High Commissions visited were Australia, Canada, Cey-

lon, Ethiopia, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, the United Arab Republic, Tanganyika and Tunisia.

A Memorandum was presented giving a report on the situation in South Africa. It included, *inter alia*, the following appeal:

"We would further point out that the two Governments of the world whose pressures would be felt most strongly in South Africa, are those of the United Kingdom and the United States. We particularly implore these Governments, who themselves voted for an end to the Rivonia trial and the release of the South African political prisoners, to use their very great influence and prestige at this time. We hope that other Governments will consider by what means they can help persuade these governments to act decisively and quickly".

Our deputations were in all cases highly successful and our urgent requests for the speedy implementation by the governments concerned of the United Nations' resolution met with encouraging response.

WORLD - WIDE SUPPORT FOR OUR CAMPAIGN

THE London office of the World Campaign is becoming the centre of a real international effort as news comes in with every post of support and activities in countries all over the world.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, in a letter to the World Campaign express their "fullest condemnation" of the "vicious sentences" imposed on workers and trade unionists in the current political trials, and state: "We are of the opinion that what is needed at this juncture is a general condemnation of the South African Government and effective action on the international level with a view to eliminating apartheid."

The Conference of African Trade Unions held in Accra demanded the release of all South African political prisoners, and called on workers and trade unions throughout the world to take action, including industrial action, to end apartheid.

The World Assembly of Youth plans to take up the question of the political prisoners at their Seminar on Human Rights in Strasbourg in April.

In Sweden, the W.A.Y. and the United Nations Association are together organising a mass campaign for 300,000 signatures to the petition demanding the release of South African political prisoners; and the multi-party National Youth Council, representing nearly all major youth movements in Sweden, has a full-time official working on the South African question.

In Canada the Civil Liberties Union has taken up the question of South African political prisoners as a matter of urgency.

In the German Democratic Republic, following a meeting in November of 600 students, teachers and trade unionists, each of whom pledged himself to organise further activities in colleges and at factory gates, 35 protest meetings had been held by December 17th.

In Australia, the Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Union, Sydney, have protested vigorously to Dr. Verwoerd at the detention of Mr. Edward Davoren, of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, and at the banning and persecution of dozens of other trade unionists.

In Britain the Boot and Shoe Operatives, Association of Scientific Workers, Constructional Engineers, Mineworkers, and individual members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union have signed the

petition, passed resolutions, voiced their protests, as have the Home Counties Federation of Trades Councils and the Colchester Trades Council.

A public demonstration in Birmingham on March 17th, to commemorate the Sharpeville massacre of 1960, wrote to the Prime Minister, urging him to "put pressure on the South African Government to abandon the Rivonia trial and to release all political prisoners."

In New Zealand a campaign to circulate literature and obtain signatures to the petition has been in progress, and petition signatures have also been collected in Austria, Ghana, the United States and the Congo—and many other countries.

Among recent signatories to the petition are:

PERSONAL MESSAGES FROM FAMOUS STATESMEN

Cheddi Jagan

"I have on many occasions, both as a political leader before assuming office in the Government of British Guiana, and since, declared my abhorrence of the oppression inflicted upon the vast majority of the unenfranchised people of South Africa by its minority Government. I have condemned the infamous policy of apartheid and the machinery that has been set up to implement it, directed against the innocent millions of hapless people.

"I therefore support the World Campaign for the Release of South African Prisoners, sponsored by the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and express the hope that its efforts will end, if not in complete success, in some alleviation of the sufferings of our fellow-beings in South Africa".

Nehru's Message

"I am glad to learn of a campaign for the release of South African political prisoners.

"We witness in South Africa today the sad spectacle of several hundred persons having been put behind bars under the provisions of apartheid laws which have rightly been condemned by enlightened public opinion throughout the world. We

Trade Union Central Councils in Israel, Hungary, Japan, Cyprus and New Zealand; A group of Belgian film and television directors, and playwrights; 34 names collected in Transport House by Mr. Harry Nicholas, Ass. General Secretary of the British Transport and General Workers' Union; The Secretary of the Trade Union movement in Cuba, the Rector of the University of Habana, the President of the Student Federation and the Secretary General of the Young Communist League of Cuba; The Rector of the University of Halsam, Israel; The President of the Israeli Student Federation, and the Secretary of the Young Communist League, Israel; Peggy Seeger and Ewan McColl, folksingers.

Altogether, £1,127.7.6d. has been collected for the Defence and Aid Fund through the World Campaign, £615.16.8d. in donations sent with petition signatures.

in India have unequivocally expressed our opposition to these laws which run counter to the spirit of the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and indeed, the basic principles of civilised human behaviour. The trials of several hundred political prisoners who are languishing in jails for alleged political offences presents a challenge to human dignity.

"I earnestly hope that the World Campaign for the Release of South African Political Prisoners will help to bring about a change of heart in the Government of South Africa leading to its abandoning its oppressive racial policies. I wish the Campaign every success."

Message from the United Arab Republic

"Your letter, on behalf of the World Campaign for the Release of South African Political Prisoners, has been received with appreciation for the spirit motivating the effort in the noble cause of man's freedom and basic rights.

"The United Arab Republic joins in the universal condemnation of the discriminatory practises perpetrated in South Africa against the Africans on their own soil and in their homeland, and spares no effort to bring racialism to an end."