

Kenneth
Khumalo

Zuko
Xabendlini

Tros
Gubala

Zonga
Mokgatle

David
Lekkanyane

Albert
Tywili

• Photographs not obtainable



Xolile Yona



Myner Gudlani Bovu



Boy Japhta



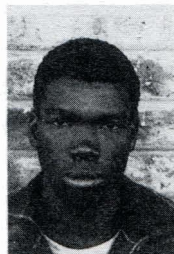
Justice Bekebeke



Wellington Masiza



Gideon Madlongolwane

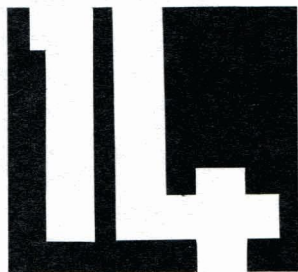


Andrew Lekhanyane



Evelina de Bruin

SAVE THE UPINGTON



THEY MUST NOT HANG

APARTHEID REGIME TO HANG UPINGTON 14

ON FRIDAY MAY 26TH 1989 fourteen South Africans were sentenced to hang at the end of a trial which had lasted three years, one of the largest groups of people sentenced to death at any one time. On the next day they were taken directly to Pretoria Central Prison and Death Row.

THEY JOINED OVER 60 other political activists already under sentence of death. Since the nationwide State of Emergency was declared in June 1986 the apartheid regime has executed at least 23 political activists for their alleged involvement in "offences" relating to opposition to apartheid.

The 14 sentenced to hang represent a cross section of the community in the Upington township of Paballelo, reportedly the most deprived African township in South Africa. It is situated in the remote North West of the country, near the Namibian border.

Among the 14 is a domestic servant in her late 50's, Evelina de Bruin, mother of 10

children, the youngest of whom is 12; also her husband, Gideon Madlongolwane, a railway worker with 36 years of service. Others include a boxer; a school teacher; a male nurse working in the Namibian capital of Windhoek; a labourer; and the former treasurer of Paballelo Town Council.

Convicted of killing a policeman on the notorious basis of 'common purpose', the 14, from the northern Cape town of Upington, were among a total of 26 who stood trial. Of the 26, twenty-five were found guilty of murder, with the 26th being found guilty of attempted murder. Those not receiving the death penalty were given sentences ranging from six to eight years imprisonment or community service orders.

THE UPINGTON 14 *Kenneth Khumalo · Zuko Xabendlini · Tros Gubala · Zonga Mokgatle · David Lekanyane · Albert Tywili · Xolile Yona · Myner Gudlani · Boy Japhta · Justice Bekebeke · Wellington Masiza · Gideon Madlongolwane · Andrew Lekhanyane · Evelina de Bruin*

COURTS IMPOSE APARTHEID RULE

THE TRIAL AROSE from the death of a policeman in 1985 at the height of the political unrest that swept across South Africa. The events occurred in the Upington township of Paballelo after the security forces broke up a meeting with tear gas. The mass meeting was held to discuss community grievances including rent increases.

Tear gas had never been fired in Paballelo before, and the meeting panicked and scattered believing live ammunition was being fired. Part of the crowd then gathered outside the home of a black municipal policeman. Only days before, a pregnant woman had been shot dead by a municipal policeman in the township.

The policeman opened fire on the crowd, severely wounding a child. He then ran from the house into the crowd firing his gun into the air. Enraged by his action, the crowd attacked him, confiscating his gun and hitting him twice over the head with it. He died in the attack.

ALMOST ALL OF THOSE sentenced to death were convicted on the basis of 'common purpose'. The judge demmed that by throwing stones at the home of the municipal policeman and chanting outside his house, they could be considered to share a common purpose with those directly responsible for the death.

This legal ruling has been applied in the trial of the Sharpeville Six and in other subsequent cases. It has been discredited by the international legal community as one of the many abuses of the legal system in operation in South Africa. A system where the courts are used as part of the machinery for imposing apartheid rule.

AT THE BEGINNING OF JULY 1989 application for leave to appeal by the 25 against their convictions, and by the 14 against their death sentences, was turned down by the trial court judge. The trialists then petitioned the Chief Justice for leave to appeal. On September 8th 1989 the Chief Justice granted leave to appeal against conviction for 23 of the 25 trialists and leave for all to appeal against sentencing. Although granted leave to appeal, the 14 remain on Death Row in Pretoria Central Prison.

CAMPAIGNING CAN, AND DOES, SAVE LIVES. *National and international pressure was crucial in saving the lives of the Sharpeville Six, and in 1989 six trade unionists were saved from the rope after successful campaigns.*

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE refused to intervene in the case of the Upington 14 despite stating that they are "concerned" over the case. In the case of the Sharpeville Six, the British government *intervened immediately after sentencing, but they have ruled out acting similarly in the Upington trial until the legal process has run its full course.*

This position is not acceptable and we must work to change it. We can, and must, all act to save the lives of the Upington trialists. Listed below are some of the actions that you can take to stop these judicial murders:

1. Write to

Rt. Hon. John Major MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Letters should ask the British Government to intervene immediately, and not to wait till the end of the judicial process, to save the lives of the Upington 14; and to call on the South African government to cease executing its political opponents.

3. Write to your MP and MEP

Draw the case to their attention and ask them to raise the matter with the Foreign Office; in their respective parliaments; and wherever they have an opportunity to do so.

5. Contact SATIS

For further information on the Upington 14 and the campaign to save all political prisoners on Death Row. Materials include posters, stickers, and campaign cards.

7. Join the Anti-Apartheid Movement

Tick the appropriate box Individuals £10 pa Joint membership (2 people living at the same address) £13
Concessionary (students, unwaged, pensioners) £6.50

I enclose a cheque/PO (payable to AAM) for £ _____ (membership) and £ _____ (donation)

or Debit my Access/Visa Card No. _____

Expiry Date _____ Signature _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Return to SATIS (Southern Africa The Imprisoned Society)
c/o Anti-Apartheid Movement · 13 Mandela St · London NW1 0DW · 01 387 7966



2. Write to

The State President
Union Buildings
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

Letters should condemn the decision to execute the Upington 14 and call for an end to the use of the death penalty in all political trials in South Africa.

4. Write to the Upington 14

For details of letter writing, contact SATIS

Pretoria Central Prison
Private Bag X45
Pretoria 001
South Africa

6. Campaign for all on Death Row

Encourage your local Anti-Apartheid group, church or trade union to take up the case of the Upington trialists, and all prisoners on Death Row.