

THE YOUNG COMRADES

The experience of self-organisation of the black communities typified by Cradock has spread to Alexandra and across South Africa, and the 'young comrades' have emerged as a revolutionary force. Stooze councillors, informers and black policemen have been dispensed with the summary people's justice of the Necklace, a measure found necessary to protect the people. People's Courts have been set up. Contrary to the counter-propaganda of apartheid's backers the People's Courts have brought order to the townships, drastically reducing crimes of robbery, vandalism, and murder and an expression of the people's will to govern themselves.

Apartheid's latest strategy is to employ groups of vigilantes to do its dirty work in the townships, squatter camps and Bantustans. Captured informers and the evidence of thousands testify that the vigilantes are based on hoodlums, stooze councillors paid, organised and equipped by the police. The vigilantes murdered over 40 youth and popular community organisers in the Crossroads squatter camp complex to pave the way for mass removals that left 30,000 homeless in one week alone. The young comrades have been forced to hit back. When the police shot dead 3 youth in Soweto last month, the young comrades went from door to door urging the people to prepare arms to fight back. 5 and 10 year olds in the black townships today proclaim themselves as soldiers in Nelson Mandela's Army. The children of South Africa are not victims, they are part of the freedom struggle.

An eye witness said of Soweto 1976 'I saw a 7 year old boy, his dead body holed with bullets yet his fist still clenched in a power salute'. That defiance of an individual child lives on today in the fighting children and youth.

COMING EVENT

☐ **Thursday 26 June 1-2pm**
Special picket on SOUTH AFRICAN FREEDOM DAY to remember all South African Political Prisoners.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

The Picket needs volunteers at any time, but especially from 7am to 10am any morning. Why not join us for 2 hours before work? We need money, food, bring yourselves and your placards.

I/We will come to the picket (time and date) _____

I/We donate £ _____ We invite a Non-Stop Picket speaker to speak on (date) _____

Name _____ Tel _____

Organisation (if applicable) _____

Address _____

MASS RALLY 6pm, NON-STOP PICKET SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY, TRAFALGAR SQUARE

16 JUNE 1986

The unity and power of the mass movement will be bought to a head on 16 June 1986. The United Democratic Front, the Confederation of South African Trade Unions, the National Education Crisis Committee and scores of organisations have called for a stayaway and protest rallies.

The apartheid regime has responded with the declaration of a countrywide state of emergency.

There could be no clearer time than now for massive protests here in Britain in support of the heroic youth and all the fighting people of South Africa. Join us on 16 June.

VIVA THE FIGHTING YOUTH!

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Today we had someone on the picket from the South African Committee in Montreal, Quebec. It was really heartening to hear about the action against South Africa that seems to have swept over the whole of Montreal. I was told about action against South African goods. In Montreal you can walk into a supermarket, reach over for an apple and someone will say: 'don't buy that it's South African' or 'we're not going in that restaurant, they use South African goods.'

When I told her about City Group's being kicked out of the national AAM for being too militant, she laughed and said: 'What! picketing—MILITANT?' Everybody pickets in Montreal. It seems like people in Britain still have a long way to go before realising that action is necessary and important at all levels.

A lot of Canadian and American Universities have disinvested from South Africa. It took only one big university, Harvard, to lead the way, now millions of pounds have been taken out of South Africa.

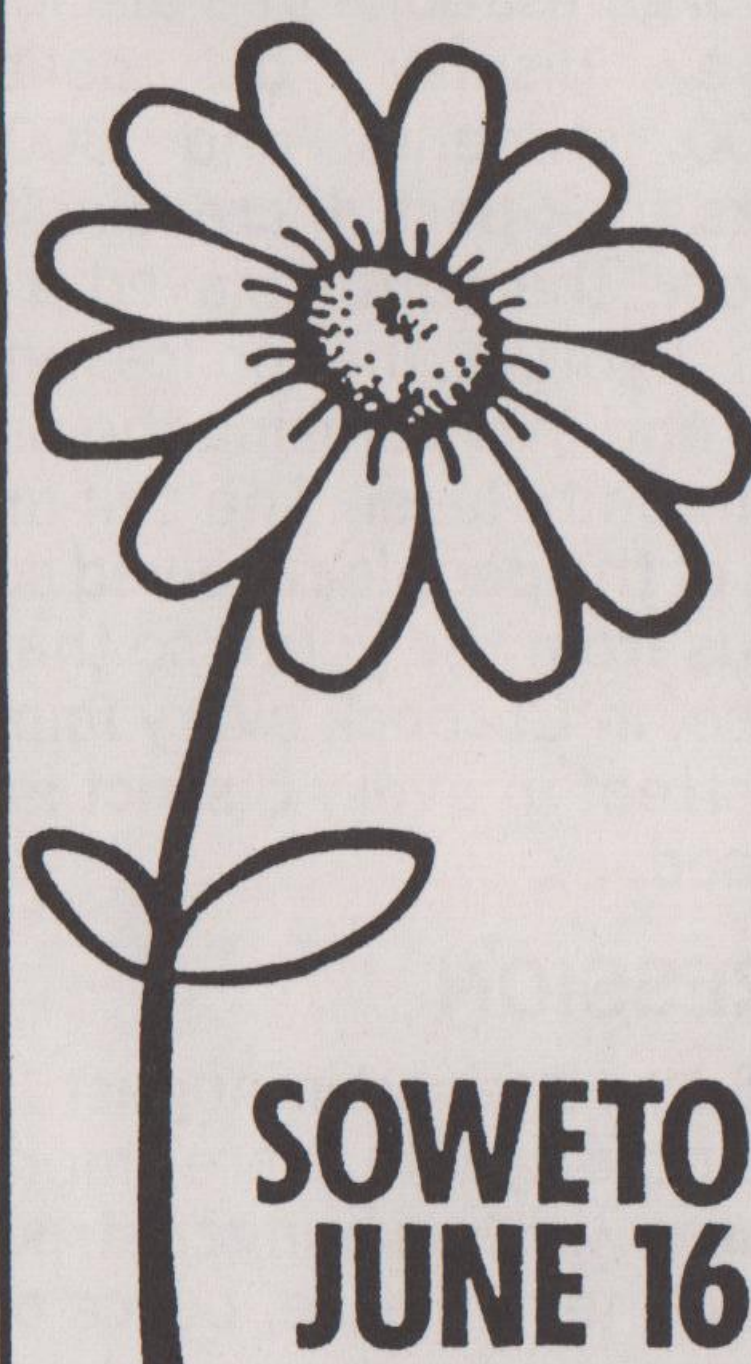
It is good to hear of this action happening so far away, part of one struggle to end apartheid.

JANINE

Message to the Picket from a Durban ★ trade unionist

Comrades we thank you all for the solidarity you have shown to us. We thank you. We thank you all, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers. We thank you all for the good work that you have shown to the South Africans. We have seen the pictures, we have seen the literature, we have seen all the work that you are doing, so we say comrades we will never forget you, we will write your names in our hearts, we will never forget the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group and we will never forget the Non-Stop Picket until Nelson Mandela is free. We will write it all in our history books when Azania is free.

A GARLAND OF FLOWERS FOR SOWETO JUNE 16



COURT DATES:

■ **Monday 16 June, Bow Street Magistrates Court.**
Richard on unlawful street collection, police and highway obstruction.

■ **Monday 23 June 2pm**
Bow Street Magistrates Court, WC2.
Ruby up for unlawful street collection and obstruction on the police.

NON-STOP NEWS

BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX Tel: 01 837 6050 10p

No.6 14 June 1986



REMEMBER SOWETO — 10th ANNIVERSARY

ALL OUT FOR THE 28 JUNE

The United Nations has condemned Apartheid as a crime against humanity yet Britain invests £14 billion in South Africa. As countries all over the world impose economic, diplomatic and cultural sanctions, Britain's role is increasingly exposed as the sustainer of the apartheid regime.

The Thatcher government refuses to be moved by concern for humanity nor human rights. Now with the declaration of the state of emergency, international pressure is beginning to break that intransigence. With the biggest and most defiant protest in Britain we can break this intransigence altogether.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement has organised a MARCH FOR FREEDOM on Saturday 28 June. We must all ensure that this becomes the biggest protest that Britain has seen in opposition to apartheid. But more than this we must make it the loudest, most militant and most dynamic protest against apartheid ever in Britain.

TORCHLIGHT PROTEST ON THE NON-STOP PICKET 9pm 28 JUNE 1986 JOIN US!

APARTHEID PREPARES SHOWDOWN

On June 12 the apartheid regime declared a nationwide state of emergency, rounding up over 2,000 anti-apartheid activists in raids by the police and army in cities throughout the country.

This state of emergency is the first to be imposed country wide since the Sharpeville massacre, and comes four days before Soweto Day, the tenth anniversary of the Soweto uprisings.

COSATU the largest trade union federation has announced a one-week stay-away from work beginning on Monday, 16 June. Press restrictions have been imposed to prevent this being publicised.

This state of emergency includes sweeping powers against the media. With the aim of preventing any protest action being reported. The apartheid regime is particularly concerned that no information about protest and demonstrations or involving the security forces is disseminated outside the country.

The ANC has issued a statement in response to this declaration of a state of emergency saying:

'Far from solving its problems the regime is compounding the situation for itself. Our people will respond to these provocative acts of repression by observing this 10th anniversary of the Soweto uprisings in their millions, ensuring that the June 16 strike is the biggest in the history of the country. We warn that the people may be pushed by the regime into extending the strike beyond one day'.

The ANC has called also for 'complete and mandatory sanctions' to be implemented.

'BRAVE BOTHA'

The Botha regime is characterised by its murder of innocent school children using machine guns and armoured cars and shooting these children in the back. In a TV address President Botha declared 'We are not weaklings...'

SANCTIONS YES!

Norway's Labour government is considering following in Denmark's footsteps by banning all trade with South Africa. Norwegian ships are believed to be responsible for a third of all the oil delivered to South Africa.

16 JUNE 1976

In Soweto on the 16 June 1976 a demonstration had been planned by young school students. The protest march and rally was to demand an end to their discriminatory education. They did not want to be taught in Afrikaans—the language of their oppressors.

Thousands of pupils, aged between 12 and 20, gathered and marched through Soweto singing freedom songs and carrying placards. They were in an 'extremely jovial mood'.

On hearing that the police were coming, a senior pupil addressed the crowd, he said, 'we are not fighting' and emphasized the need to remain 'calm and cool'. Shortly afterwards, the police arrived and spread out in front of them. The crowd responded by singing and shouting peace slogans. 'We thought they were going to disperse us with loud hailers... or maybe talk to us'.

Suddenly a white policeman lobbed a teargas cannister into the crowd, which retreated but remained facing the police. A white policeman was then seen to draw out his revolver and aim it at the children. The first shot rang out and the stunned crowd was for a moment silent and then pandemonium broke out as the children ran in all directions. The police firing continued and more children fell to the ground, the students repented by throwing bricks and stones. The police had violently and needlessly attacked the well-ordered and peaceful demonstration.

A group of children emerged from the crowd carrying a young boy who was covered in blood. Hector Peterson, aged 13, was the first victim of the massacre and died on his way to hospital. Photographs of the incident shocked the world and he has become a symbol of the Soweto massacre.

News of the shootings spread quickly, in anger groups of demonstrators set fire to any buildings that symbolized or collaborated with the apartheid regime, this included Barclays Bank. Commuting evening workers arriving at the railway station were faced with armed police and many, on hearing the news, joined the students.

Large convoys of the police, armed with automatic rifles and machine guns continued to fire indiscriminately into crowds in the dark. The army were placed on alert as the fierce fighting drew on late into the night.

As the second day began, the police armed themselves with sten



REMEMBER SOWETO Whirlwind Before the Storm

guns, automatic rifles and hand machine carbines. The police 'shot at random and at anyone who would raise a fist and shout 'Power''. The demonstrators responded by pelting police with bricks and the attacks on WRAB offices and schools continued. Casualties and deaths were even higher as the police shot indiscriminately and attempted to prevent the injured from entering hospitals or to arrest the wounded.

Three hundred white students, joined by black workers, marched protesting against the massacres were attacked by a hundred white vigilantes. The South African press reported that it had been a 'quiet day'.

On the third day, the indiscriminate shooting kept most people off the streets although there were still some incidents between small groups and the police. The police shot at anyone lingering on the streets.

The authorities conceded that 95 black people had been killed in those three days, however it later became apparent that the number was nearer to 500.

The events of those three days in Soweto echoed through the townships and villages. All over South Africa there were mass demonstrations and protests against the vicious massacre.

Prime Minister Vorster in his New Year speech to the white population of South Africa said that the storm had not yet struck, 'we are only experiencing the whirlwinds that go before it'.

Before ten years had passed, Vorster's words were to prove prophetic.

THE SPARK

The revolt of the Soweto youth on 16 June 1976 was directed against the Bantu Education system. Particularly its latest innovation, to enforce the use of Afrikaans as a means of teaching black children.

The education system was a major issue in the crisis. It affected a whole generation so greatly that they took to the streets to protest.

In the months leading up to the uprising, opposition to the discriminatory education had been growing in schools. Although the education issue is often seen as the main reason for the uprising, practically anything could have set it off so deep was the resentment among the people.

Winnie Mandela said that 'the language issue is merely a spark that lit the resentment that is building up among black people'.

THE FIRE

The events in Soweto fired a whole generation of youth who took to the streets, this provided an extraordinary new burst of life to the national liberation struggle.

Many of the youth had to flee and knew that in order to continue their struggle they would have to join up with the liberation forces of Umkonto We Sizwe, armed wing of the African National Congress. A whole new generation of freedom fighters was born out of the struggle in Soweto.

The Apartheid regime is beginning to pay the price for the murder of innocent children as these new freedom fighters begin to take the armed struggle into the heart of South Africa.

1984-1986 VIVA THE YOUTH!

The Storm Breaks

The involvement of youth and young children in the forefront of today's struggle to smash apartheid is a fact undisputed by even the most shameless backers of the racist regime. Whatever the repression that apartheid has thrown at the people's movement, revolutionary militants have emerged ever younger and ever more determined to fight apartheid to the death.



APARTHEID IN CRISIS

In June 1984 P.W. Botha was riding high. He had imposed the anti-ANC Nkomati agreement on neighbouring Mozambique, he had been feted by Mrs Thatcher and his European allies, and his promises of reform were held up for approval and applause in the Western media. Two years later, Botha stumbles from crisis to crisis, his rule is exposed to the world as state terrorism at home and abroad, the white ruling alliance is splintering and his main international backers Thatcher and Reagan are increasingly isolated in their collaboration. The crucial factor that has turned the situation around is that heroic resistance of the fighting people of South Africa.

ROOTS OF THE YOUTH REVOLT

The role of the youth has been critical. Already in 1984 the schools were in ferment. In several areas such as Atteridgeville and Cradock in the Eastern Cape school boycotts had been in progress for months. In the main the students demands at this stage related to political rights in education—the right to organise in Student-Representative Councils, control of the curriculum, decent facilities, an end to the victimisation of radical teachers who sided with the youth. The boycotts spread the school student Confederation of South African Students became a national political force. COSAS banners appeared at the political funerals of black people murdered by the police in the uprisings of the Vaal triangle of September 1984. Then came the Transvaal stayaway of October 1984 which was a turning point. COSAS

brought together and worked with the trade unions and community based organisations in a disciplined massive display of defiance. 400,000 students and 800,000 workers took part. Increasingly out of school, the youth played a vital role in fighting the police on the streets and in organising the people at community level. The self-organisation of the people received such a stimulus from the youth so that, for instance, in Cradock every family in every street in every district is now organised.

REPRESSION

COSAS was banned in August 1985. Hundreds of youth were imprisoned, scores went on hunger strike demanding their release, police out of the townships and an end to the State of Emergency.

Children and youth are on the frontline of racist repression. Scores of babies and infants have been killed. In the 19 months before April 1986 1559 people had been killed by the police—50% were shot in the back. Of the 93 people shot dead by police in 6 months in the Cape Town area 12% of the victims were aged under 15 years old.

8 year old Amos Khubheda, held for interrogation and denied bail on charges of 'intimidation', was one of the many children detained.

At the end of January this year over 5,000 children were being held in jail as sentenced and unsentenced prisoners. Under Section 50 of the Internal Security Act, which allows for 'preventive detention' at least 35 school children aged 12-17 years old from Aliwal North were detained.

Student leader Siphosiso Mutsi (aged 20) and 3 teenagers were amongst

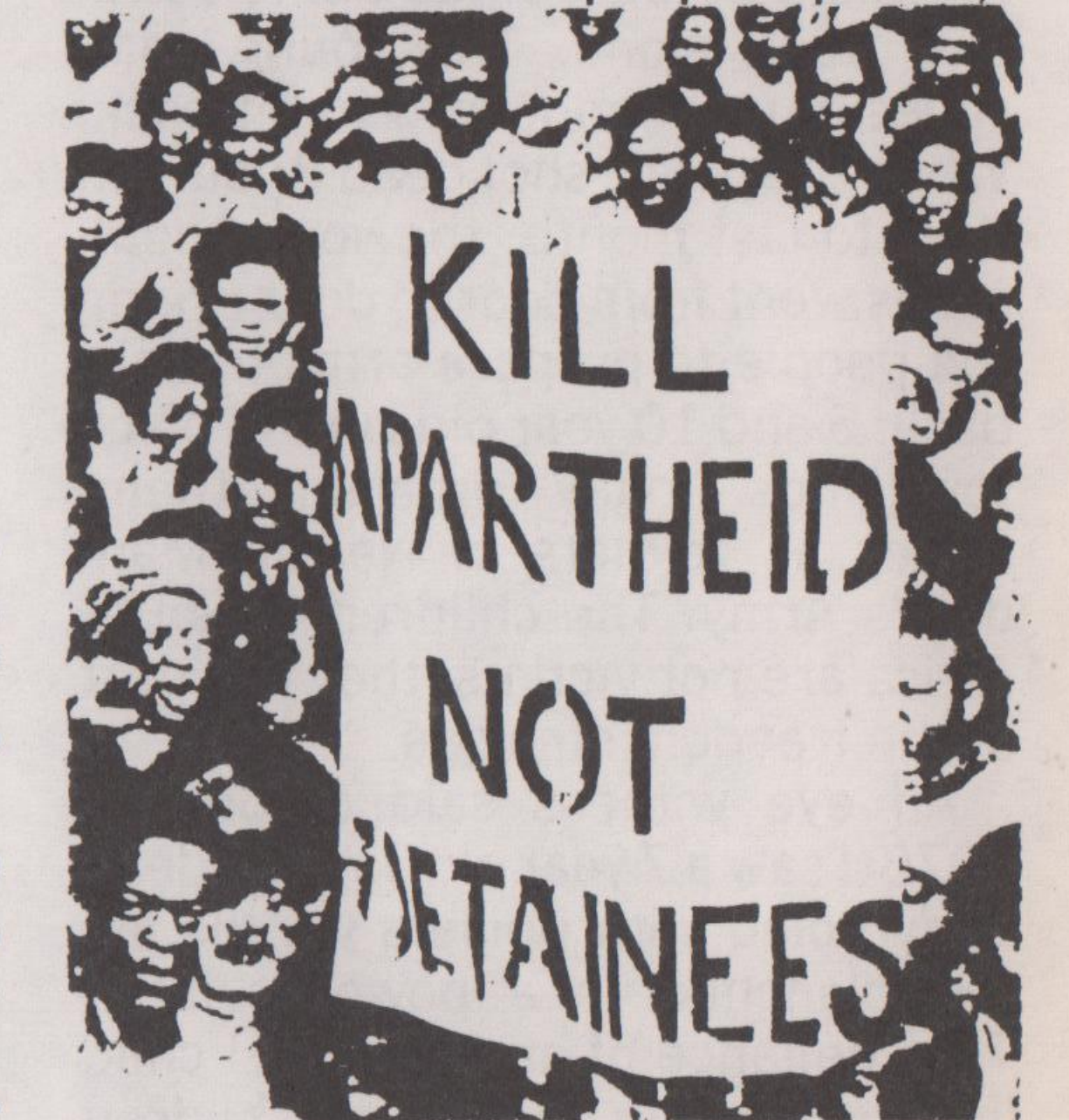
the 16 people held on politically related charges who are known to have died in police custody during the last year.

Young political activists, like all community organisers, became targets for police and army death squads. In Mamelodi, and in Lulekani in the Lebowa Bantustan, student leaders were killed in hand grenade attacks on their homes.

RESISTANCE

In the barren Bantustan concentration camps, where 1 in 4 children die before reaching the age of 5, the youth have spearheaded a new confident challenge to the puppet leaders. Kwa Ndebele's plans for transition to 'independence' in December this year have been rocked by the youth and the rapid spread of the United Democratic Front.

Throughout the last 2 years school students have engaged in walkouts and boycotts of the schools. In some areas the police have tried to force the students to return, in other areas the police have trained their guns on the school students in the classrooms and closed down schools. The youth have set up alternative education for people's power,



they have renamed schools and playgrounds after Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela and other heroes of the struggle. The National Education Crisis Committee met in delegate conference in March and called for a return to school. But the intransigence of the authorities has led to the continuation of the boycott in many areas, especially in the Eastern and Western Cape. The student's demands are not only on educational grievances but now reflect the wider struggle. In 1984 and 1985 it was secondary school students aged up to 20 who took the lead, today the most militant section leading boycotts are primary school students, their leaders are 14 years old.