



A campaign  
initiated by  
The Africa Fund.

Memo November 22, 1991  
To: All Southern Africa Support and Human Rights Groups  
From: Research Department  
Re: South Africa's Homeland Prisoners

April 30, 1991 should have been a landmark date in the struggle to end apartheid, for deKlerk promised all political prisoners their freedom by then. Yet now in November, nearly seven months later, there are still nearly 1000 political prisoners in jails throughout South Africa.

In the "independant homeland" of Bophuthatswana alone there are at present 100 political prisoners. Yet these prisoners face perhaps an even greater predicament since the South African government denies any jurisdiction over their imprisonment, claiming that Bophuthatswana is its own entity. Pretoria therefore claims that they can act only as an intermediary in negotiating their release.

In fact, Bophuthatswana is an illegitimate entity, created by the South African government in 1981, and is not recognized anywhere in the world other than in South Africa. It was the South African government which forcibly relocated millions of black South Africans into such homelands in an attempt to build an ethnic state. Furthermore, it is the South African government which enables Bophuthatswana to exist financially, providing \$580,713,697 in 1990/91 alone; nearly 80% of the yearly budget.

Presently there are 22 political prisoners on hunger strike in Bophuthatswana in a last chance effort to gain their freedom. While the authorities of Bophuthatswana try to mask their decaying state of health Pretoria continues to assert that they have no control over the homeland's affairs.

The deKlerk government must accept its direct responsibility for the condition of these hunger strikers and all political prisoners in Bophuthatswana as well as the rest of South Africa. The South African government, in denying this responsibility, is in turn denying hundreds of people their freedom and their lives. Time and again, international pressure has been the only effective way to move the South African government.

DEMAND THE RELEASE OF THESE POLITICAL PRISONERS!

CALL, WRITE or CABLE:

State President F.W. deKlerk

Private Bag X213

Pretoria 00010, South Africa

The Africa Fund, 198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10038 (212) 962-1210

# MAFIKENG ANTI REPRESSION FORUM ( M A R E F )

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## SERIOUS DECLINE IN CONDITION OF BUSHY MOLEFE

BOP HUNGER STRIKE UPDATE - 19TH NOVEMBER 1991

Bushy Molefe, on day 58 of his hunger strike at Bophelong hospital is in a critical condition. Yesterday morning he lapsed into unconsciousness for several hours. His doctor and nursing staff were at that stage unable to bring him around. This situation was witnessed by his fellow hunger striker, George Biya, who is together with Molefe in the intensive care unit at Bophelong.

By the afternoon, however, he had regained consciousness. According to Dr David Green of NAMDA, this could be the start of his decline into a semi-comatose condition. Contrary to popular belief, a hunger striker does not lapse into a coma for a few days and then die. It is usual that the person slips in and out of consciousness for several days before dying. Green said that the famous Irish hunger striker, Bobby Sands, slipped in and out of consciousness for seven days, and on the day he died he was conscious.

This morning MAREF members visited Bushy. He was conscious and could communicate by whispering. He said that in the early hours of yesterday morning he had severe problems in getting to sleep. Finally he had lapsed into unconsciousness and knew nothing more until the afternoon when he came round with great difficulty. (George Biya told MAREF members that during the morning doctors and nurses had hammered Bushy's reflexes and pinched him in an attempt to bring him round). Bushy further stated that yesterday afternoon he had clouds of dizziness and blackness repeatedly descending on him.

This morning Bushy Molefe's blood pressure was dangerously low at 70/40 and his pulse was 48 per minute. His weight was down to 43.5 kg. a loss of 20.4kgs. He also says that he can hardly see anymore.

MAREF is anticipating an attempt by the Bop authorities to hide the critical condition Bushy Molefe is in. MAREF members discovered this morning that doctors treating Bushy had not recorded yesterdays events in his medical file. There is no doctors entry on his file between the 16th November and this morning the 19th. The Commissioner of Prisons, General C S S Delpont, has also refused at this stage a MAREF request that an independent doctor be allowed to examine Bushy. This is a contravention of international norms on the treatment of hunger strikers.

Bushy Molefe is a genuine hunger striker. He has had absolutely no nutrition for 58 days. We fear that, unless he is released, he will die within the next week.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

MAREF PUBLICITY COMMITTEE 01448 648

MEDICAL OPINION - DR DAVID GREEN - NAMDA 011 294060

## WEEKLY REPRESSION REPORT

FOR WEEK No. 45  
FROM 04/11/91 TO 10/11/91

### FORMAL REPRESSION

#### REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION

##### CISKEI STATE OF EMERGENCY

The State of Emergency, declared by Brigadier Oupa Gqoza on the 28th October, is still in force throughout the territory.

On the 30th October, the Military Council issued the Indemnity Third Amendment Decree which extends indemnity for officials working for the Ciskei authorities.

Applications challenging the legality of the State of Emergency were filed in the Bisho Supreme Court on the 6th and 7th November and are to heard on the 12th November.

##### PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

Thokoza, Vosloorus, Kattlehong, Tembisa, Soweto, Dobsonville, Meadowlands, Diepkloof and Alexandra remain Unrest Areas with a 9pm to 5am curfew imposed on all of them.

#### FORMAL REPRESSION OF PERSONS

##### Detention without Trial

Detentions:	Ciskei*	196
	Bophuthatswana	10
Releases:	Ciskei	4
Still Held:	Ciskei	192
	Bophuthatswana	10
	Transkei	2

TOTAL: 204

#### SECURITY FORCE ACTIONS

During this period, 11 people were injured and 354 arrested as a result of security force action.

AREA	DEATHS	INJURIES	ARRESTED
PWV	-	1	22
E. Transvaal			
N. Transvaal	-	8	50
W. Transvaal	-	-	1
Natal	-	-	3
E. Cape	-	1	7
Border	-	-	16
Ciskei	-	1	154
??	-	-	91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>354</b>

\* Police reported that a further 91 people were arrested on the 4th November in illegal gatherings relating to anti-VAT protests across the country.

##### PWV

###### Johannesburg

An anti-VAT protester was injured and twenty-two arrested when police stopped an illegal march in Hillbrow on the 5th November. The injured person reported that the arresting officer was not wearing a name tag and neither were a number of policemen at the police station. In terms of the National Peace Accord policemen are required to wear name tags at all time. Those arrested were summonsed to pay R30 admission of guilt fined for contravening municipal by-laws.

##### NORTHERN TRANSVAAL

###### Messina

Eight people were injured when an anti-VAT protest march was declared illegal on the 5th November and police reportedly opened fire with rubber bullets on the crowd that had gathered. One of the victims was reportedly shot above the left eye and might lose it.

##### Pietersburg

On the 6th November, about 50 people were arrested for not having their identity documents on them. When one of the people who had been arrested asked the policeman if their arrests were legal the station commander replied that they were

being "warned for the last time" and that they would be locked up if they were found without identity documents again. Residents reported that the police usually raided parks and other centres in town where black people congregated and arrested black people who did not have ID books with them. Influx control laws were scrapped in 1986 it is no longer a crime to be without identification.

#### **WESTERN TRANSVAAL**

##### **Rustenburg**

A miner was arrested on the 4th November for putting up anti-VAT posters.

#### **NATAL**

##### **Durban-KwaMashu**

On the 9th November KwaZulu Police arrested Michael Nene, Lucas Chile and Made Mkhize, after an ANC meeting in the area. The three were reportedly taken to the police station where they were verbally abused, threatened with a firearm and told that the police intended to shoot everyone in L-Section. The police allegedly quoted extracts from Chief Buthelezi's recent radio interview, when he accused "comrades" of being dogs, which they reportedly used as justification for the arrests. The three were later released without charge. However, the police confiscated the minutes and the attendance register of the ANC meeting.

#### **BORDER**

##### **Stutterheim**

Police arrested 16 ANC supporters participating in an anti-VAT picket on the 4th November. The police told the local ANC branch chairperson that the picket was illegal because they had not applied for a permit to hold the picket. The 16 were given until the 22 November to pay admission of guilt fines.

#### **EASTERN CAPE**

##### **Albany-Adelaide**

On the 5th November police arrested seven ANC Youth League members for Obstruction of Traffic during an anti-VAT march. The police allegedly ordered the crowd to disperse and when they did not do so, fired teargas at them. The police reported that stones were thrown at them, however the Adelaide Advice Office has countered this by saying that the march was peaceful. The seven have been ordered to pay admission of guilt fines of R50 before the 29 November.

##### **Albany-Alicedale**

Police allegedly assaulted ANC member, Mr John Koweni (87), on the 6th November, while they searched his house for firearms. No firearms were found. Police arrested 4 ANC members, following the stabbing of a policeman over the weekend. The policeman was stabbed when police, reportedly drunk, arrived in the township and started arresting ANC supporters. One of the four was charged with attempted murder and the others released.

#### **CISKEI**

##### **King William's Town**

On the 4th November, 151 ANC members were arrested on unknown charges in Dimbaza. They were released on R30 bail the following day.

##### **Mdantsane**

On the 6th November, Ciskei security forces arrested 13 MK members who had recently returned from exile after being granted indemnity by the South African government.

##### **Mzanzi**

Ciskei police allegedly abducted and assaulted an ANC Youth League member on the 4th November. The police reportedly arrived at his house, kicked open the door and dragged him to a car where they sjambokked him and pushed him into the boot. Another person was already in the boot. It was reported that after driving away, the police took him out of the boot, sjambokked him and demanded that he show them the way to someone else's home. He escaped while the police were trying to force entry into the home.

### **INFORMAL REPRESSION**

#### **VIGILANTE-RELATED ACTIONS**

During this period we recorded 18 deaths and more than 71 injuries resulting from vigilante-related actions.

AREA	DEATHS	INJURIES
PWV	1	22
E. Transvaal	1	1
W. Transvaal	2	49
Natal	14	+
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>71+</b>

##### **PWV**

##### **Alexandra**

The clinic in the township reported that 8 people were treated on the 5 November for gunshot or stab wounds.

##### **East Rand-Nigel**

The driver of a mini-bus was killed and four passengers were injured when people in another vehicle opened fire on the mini-bus on the 8 November. A further ten people were injured when the mini-bus overturned.



## **EASTERN TRANSVAAL**

### **Secunda**

The Inkatha Freedom Party Youth Brigade reported that one of its national executive committee members, Mr Mbhekiseni Gwala, was killed at his parents in-law home when a unknown gunman opened fire with an AK-47 rifle on the 4 November.

## **WESTERN TRANSVAAL**

### **Carltonville**

On the 3 and 4 November, two miners were killed and 49 injured at the West Deep Levels mine.

## **NATAL**

### **Durban-KwaMashu**

On the 7 November, a number of people were injured when the train station in F-Section was attacked by Inkatha supporters from a nearby hostel. No deaths were reported.

## **Midlands-Richmond**

On the 4 November the body of Ms Phumuzile Mkhize (27) was found in the veld near a farm.

## **Midlands-Pietermaritzburg**

Mr Walter Ndlovu (39) was killed while on his way to work in Edendale on the 4 November.

## **S Coast-Folweni A**

On the 5 November, two people, Mr David Sikhonde and Mr Mazo, were killed when Inkatha supporters from Folweni Reserve attacked an anti-VAT march. Residents reported that the KwaZulu Police were part of the attack and fired at residents as they were fleeing. On the 10 November, eight people were killed and a number injured when about 50 Inkatha supporters attacked the area. It was reported that the KwaZulu Police assisted them in the attack. Residents reported that the attack lasted about 2 hours and that KwaZulu Police opened fire on people as they were fleeing.

## **S Coast-Mashiwase**

Two people were killed when Inkatha supporters attacked the home of a person they suspected of supporting the ANC on the 9 November. Councillor Khwela was later arrested and charged for involvement in the attack.

## **Comment:**

### Ciskei

\* Note: All figures given for the Ciskei apply up to the 8th November.

### Bophuthatswana

8 members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), employed at the Impala Platinum mines were detained in Bophuthatswana. This has led to a strike by at least 35 000 mineworkers which has completely halted production at the mines.

Mr Lesedi Kgalati, a member of the executive committee of the ANC Mosenthal branch, was detained on the 6th November and is still being held.

Mr Geoffrey Moeletsi, an activist involved with squatters near Thlabane, was detained on the 5th November and is still being held.

## **Political Prisoners**

Hunger Strike Update: 22 political prisoners in Bophuthatswana are on hunger-strike. Johannes "Bushy" Molefe (30), has been fasting since the 23rd September. Most of the hunger-strikers have been hospitalised in the Bophelong and Thusong hospitals.

8 political prisoners held in the St Albans Prison in Port Elizabeth, embarked on a hunger-strike on the 8th November to demand their unconditional release. Their applications for indemnity have reportedly been turned down. It was also reported that an unknown number of prisoners, whose applications for indemnity had also been turned down, joined the 8 on the 9th November.

It was reported that approximately 8 political prisoners held in the J.C. Steyn Prison in Kirkwood, Eastern Cape, embarked on a hunger strike to demand their unconditional release. At the time of publication, more details about the hunger-strike were not available.

Releases: On the 9th November, 27 political prisoners in Bophuthatswana were released. This brings the total number of political prisoners still held in the homeland to 100.

## **Death Row**

On the 6th November, Flippie van Rooyen (30) was sentenced to death in the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court after being found guilty of murdering Naina Ndou on June 14. At the time of the incident, Mr van Rooyen was doing a two month army camp. This brings the total number of people on Death Row to 337, 17 of whom are considered by the HRC to be there for politically related reasons.

## **REPRESSION OF GATHERINGS**

A march protesting the implementation of Value Added Tax in Messina was declared illegal in terms of municipal by-laws.

### HIT SQUAD ACTIONS

During this period we recorded 3 deaths resulting from Hit Squad actions.

AREA	DEATHS	INJURIES
PWV	3	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>

#### PWV

##### Alexandra

On the 6 November, Mr Jama Makhosi, a well-known member of the local ANC branch, the local SACP branch and the Alexandra Civic Association, and Mr Fihlokwakhe Nxumalo, a relative of the chairperson of the local Inkatha branch, were killed when an unknown gunman opened fire on them outside the local ANC offices. An ANC official for Alexandra, Mr Obed Bapela, speculated that Mr Nxumalo was not targetted, but had been caught in the crossfire.

##### East Rand-Thokoza

On the 5 November, Ms Phumzile Mbatha, an ANC activist and COSATU worker was killed while returning from an anti-VAT protest rally.

### RIGHT WING ACTIONS

During this period we recorded injuries resulting from right wing activity.

REGION	KILLED	INJURED
E.Cape	-	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>

#### EASTERN CAPE

##### Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage

On the 7th November two men allegedly beat 3 street children, a 13-year-old girl and two boys aged 14 and 16, with a pick handle. It was alleged that the men assaulted the children while they were sleeping in the streets. The children were found unconscious by the police, who took them to hospital. One of the children is suspected to have brain damage as a result of the assault. The men were arrested on charges of attempted murder.

### UNCERTAIN ACTIONS

During this period we recorded 70 deaths and 192 injuries resulting from uncertain actions.

AREA	DEATHS	INJURIES
N. Transvaal	-	8
OFS	70	184
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>192</b>

#### NORTHERN TRANSVAAL

##### Warmbaths

Eight people were injured when a mini-bus was shot at from a yellow Nissan Skyline on the old Warmbaths/Nylstroom road on the 9 November. The shots were fired when the yellow vehicle was overtaking the mini-bus.

#### OFS

##### Welkom

During the week 70 people died and 184 were injured in clashes on the President Steyn mine. The violence broke out on the evening of the 2 November, when 16 miners were killed. On the 8 November 25 miners were killed while asleep in the hostel. On the evening of the 10 November a further 26 miners were killed. Police found the bodies of 3 miners during the week. It was reported that "mysterious" men started the fighting which then became a conflict between Sotho and Xhosa speaking miners. There were allegations that the mine security sided with the Sotho's, most of whom left the mine after the first clash and that the massacre on the 8 November was an attack on the remaining Sothos by the Xhosas. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) have blamed a "third force" because some of miners killed were not from that particular mine or from other OFS mines. Mine management has reported that the violence was started by anti-VAT strikers clashing with the miners who were reporting for work on the 3 November.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Residents of Messina in the Northern Transvaal plan to embark on a consumer boycott next week, following the failure of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Messina Town Council to respond to a memorandum sent to them by the Messina Civic Association six months ago. The memorandum demanded, inter alia, the scrapping of all municipal by-laws that restrict free political activity in the area. Now residents are demanding the resignation of all local authority committee members and the chief executive officer of Nancefield township.