



UBUMBANO



NEWSLETTER OF COSATU AND UDF NATAL REGIONS

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EDITORIAL

COSATU and UDF say ...

A climate for creating peace is slowly being established. But at the same time, a number of anti-peace forces are working to undermine our efforts.

For years the police have been fanning the violence in Natal. In 1987 when peace talks with Inkatha were taking place they detained our leaders - thus sabotaging the peace talks.

Throughout South Africa, the state has created and supported vigilante groups aimed at destroying progressive organisations.

Now, after all the harm they have caused, they are trying to take credit for the peace that has recently been established in Tshongweni.

In Mpumalanga, members of the Special Branch are attempting to hold peace talks with members of our organisations.

We say that the police cannot be the agent of lasting peace. Peace will only come about when the organisations which are most affected come together and decide how peace can be enforced.

The recent police shootings at Natal University, Cape Town, Pietermaritzburg and other areas remind us that the police are prepared to kill to save apartheid.

For us, peace amongst the people means that we will continue in our organisations to struggle against apartheid. The police are no ally in our pursuit of peace. Our campaign for peace has created new hope among the people.

More and more older people are coming forward. Now we must build strong and united people's organisations in all our communities.

Organisations where all our people, young and old, men and women, urban and rural, workers and unemployed can participate and shape their destiny.

Talks with an Inkatha delegation produced real possibilities for peace. However, the current logjam places the whole joint peace process in jeopardy.

It is in the interests of the people of Natal that all parties throw every effort behind the planned peace process. We await the decisions of the Inkatha Central Committee which meets on 23

Peace meeting in jeopardy



Barayl



Buthelezi



Tambo



Gumede

A JOINT peace process agreed between delegations of COSATU, UDF and INKATHA is already in jeopardy - even before the first step has been implemented.

A draft report of the discussions was to be presented to a meeting of the Presidents of the three organisations and the African National Congress (ANC). This meeting was to have taken place in August. The full document is to be published after the Presidents' meeting.

However, the main steps of the proposed joint peace process contained in the report have been made public and have been so far endorsed at the COSATU National Congress and the UDF structures.

The report provides for first creating an immediate public climate for peace and an end to violence by stopping of 'hostile propaganda and vilification directed at each other'. The next step is a meeting of the Presidents of the ANC, COSATU, UDF and INKATHA. -

It was agreed that each of the four organisations would have ten delegates to the meeting. Thereafter, a Peace Conference attended by delegations of COSATU, UDF and Inkatha will take place inside the country.

September hoping that the voice of peace will prevail. We urge Inkatha to take positive steps towards implementing the joint peace process. It is precisely at this time that anti-peace forces are attempting to sabotage the progress made so far. Fake documents have been 'leaked' purporting to be from

This Conference will include churches and various other organisations in Natal.

Joint peace rallies convened by COSATU, UDF and INKATHA will then be held. Joint Peace committees are to be set up in affected areas to find practical ways to end the violence and to implement the entire peace process with an enforcement structure to monitor and discipline those who commit violence.

A joint programme has to be developed to deal with the problem of refugees created by the violence.

However, Inkatha has now said that they are not prepared to go ahead with the Presidents' meeting unless they have twenty delegates and the ANC, COSATU and UDF have a combined delegation of twenty!

The COSATU Central Executive Committee and the UDF structures have rejected this proposal. Each organisation is separate and we have always rejected accusations from Vlok and others that COSATU, UDF and ANC are one organisation. We are forced to question Inkatha's motives in implying we are one organisation. INKATHA has referred our reply to their Central Committee which meets on 23 September. In the meantime, all further meetings have stopped.

UDF, COSATU and even the ANC.

Huge supplies of drugs are appearing in the townships, in an attempt to corrupt the unemployed youth. In recent weeks violence has occurred in new areas.

It is our historic task to meet this challenge from our enemies with unity and discipline.

FORWARD TO UNITY AND DISCIPLINED ACTION FOR PEACE!

Community reports

MPUMALANGA

After the tragedy of extensive violence that befell this township, the community of Mpumalanga met on the weekend of 14-15 July 1989, and decided to open talks with the local Inkatha leadership to try and seek ways of ending the violence in the area.

The result of these talks with Inkatha was the formation of Inkatha and UDF Crisis Committees.

At their first meetings on 11/08/89 the crisis committees agreed that their committees will be made up of 10 members from each organisation.

The UDF Crisis Committees held ward meetings to explain the peace process further and to formulate a direction for the local peace initiative. The first of these meetings was held in ward 5 by nearly 400 residents.

The residents present at that meeting resolved to seek ways of ending violence in Mpumalanga. This included talking to the Mpumalanga Inkatha leadership.

It is with sadness that we have to report that Comrade David Shabalala, who was very active in organizing this meeting was murdered by people believed to be against peace initiative in the area.

His funeral was held on Saturday 2nd August 1989. This became one of the largest funerals in the township. At the memorial service speaker after speaker emphasized the need to end violence.

It is reported that one of the Special Branch people had sent messages to some of the UDF Crisis Committee members urging them to participate in another initiative that would involve the police.

The UDF Crisis Committee believes that they will pursue their independent initiative started with the Inkatha Leadership. They are urging the police and other anti peace forces not to interfere with this very delicate process.

SHONGWENI

The message of the ANC/ UDF/ COSATU and INKATHA for the oppressed people to stop killing each other has reached the wartorn Community of Shongweni.

UDF comrades in Shongweni report that they were approached by the local Inkatha leaders to seek ways of ending violence.

After discussions in a school that is presently used as a police station, the Comrades and Inkatha agreed to stop fighting. The police were present

throughout the discussions.

We salute the community for heeding the call from our organisations to stop fighting.

INANDA

In the DURBAN area, Inanda has been one of the communities most affected by fighting amongst the oppressed people.

The latest developments are that discussions have started between the UDF and Inkatha leadership in the area, to find ways of ending the fighting.

KWA MASHU

In Kwa Mashu the U.D.F and COSATU were two of the organisations to head the peace call.

For example, in Ntuzuma, the leaderships of the U.D.F and Inkatha were the first to meet to work out ways of bringing peace to the area.

These initiatives, however, have been hampered by continued attacks by the enemies of peace-the vigilantes. These vigilantes continue to plunge the communities into chaos by consistently attacking people.

In Lindelani the attacks have escalated since the trial of the notorious warlord, Shabalala.

The community is presently threatened by his acquittal. They believe that the attacks on 'comrades' will increase now that Shabalala has been acquitted.

In many other areas, for example Kwa Makhutha and Umgababa, attacks on the U.D.F and COSATU members are on the increase. It is our urgent tasks in the strife - torn areas to strengthen our organisations to defend our people and build peace.

PIETERMARITZBURG

On Friday 18 August 1989, vigilantes stormed the house of Mangalisō Zondi, an elderly pensioner from Vulindlela near Pietermaritzburg, killing him, his wife Metta (56) and their son Jamieson (31).

Since the tragic deaths, members of the Zondi family have been continually harassed.

Thus, on the 26th August 1989, the day the deceased were buried, shots were fired at the Zondi homestead.

The younger members of the family have also been subjected to threats and intimidation.

On 28 August, Sandile Zondi (13 years) was threatened by fellow students at Inadi Combined School.

Later that same day the sons of Lawrence Zondi, brother of Mangalisō and participant in the BTU Sarmcol Strike was interfered with.

It is alleged that vigilantes tried to stop the Combi in which the boy was travelling so that they could attack him.

On the 30th August 1989, Sandile was once again harassed while on his way back from school. Ever since then Sandile has been afraid to attend school.

On the 29th August 1989 armed soldiers raided the Zondi homestead, apparently looking for Emmanuel Zondi, Lawrence Zondi's son.

The family have approached both Chief Shayabantu Zondi and Siphō Gcabashe, the COSATU representative on the U.D.F/ COSATU/Inkatha Natal Violence Committee.

Gcabashe sent a letter to Chief Zondi and Dr. Oscar Dhlomo, requesting a meeting to inform the community of the Peace initiative.

Chief Zondi, subsequently informed Gcabashe that such a meeting was not necessary as the S.A. Police had begun investigations. However, the continual harassment of the Zondi family prompted Gcabashe to request a community meeting once more. Again the response was negative.

In a recent press statement, COSATU highlighted the unnecessary deaths of Mandla Mthembu and Sandile Biyase.

On 27 August 1989, while returning from an Imbali Youth Organisation peace meeting in Imbali, they were shot at by an individual called 'Toti'. Both youth died as a result.

COSATU notes that although Mandla was wounded earlier in the year by the very same individual, police did not make any arrests. Instead, police arrested and tortured Mandla after COSATU highlighted the incident at a press conference in March 1989.

These recent incidents in Pietermaritzburg indicate a progressive increase in vigilante attacks on people living in the area. This has definitely been facilitated by the failure on the part of the police to act against the perpetrators of crimes against the people.



PEACE AMONGST THE PEOPLE! WAR AGAINST THE ENEMY!

Divide and Rule Vigilantes and the Police

OVER 1 300 people have died in violence in the Pietermaritzburg area over the last 3 years.

The authorities have responded to this violence by sending hundreds of police into battle torn areas around Pietermaritzburg to 'put an end to the violence' and restore 'law and order'. Still the violence continues!

The question that township residents are asking is what are the police doing?

Recently in the valley of Death near Shongweni the police have begun to play a role as 'peace - makers' between the UDF and Inkatha. This role was highlighted in the liberal press and state dominated media. However, what is the actual track record of the police and vigilantes in the ongoing conflict between Inkatha and the UDF/ COSATU.

In Pietermaritzburg the police have done very little to take action against warlords who have been at the centre of the conflict. COSATU and the UDF have done all in their power to bring these perpetrators of violence to justice. Yet most of them still walk free.

* In December 1986, two members of NUMSA, and two other community leaders were taken from their homes in Mpophomeni and brutally murdered by vigilantes. On the same night vigilantes went on the rampage throughout the township. The police took no action. In spite of the fact that an Inquest in Howick found certain individuals responsible for these deaths, to this day none of them have been charged.

* In March 1989, COSATU and its lawyers published a report on Imbali Stage One. Over a period of 2 months it was found that in this area the majority of attacks were started by certain warlords, yet the majority of people arrested for the attacks were COSATU or UDF supporters. The report also pointed out that certain people such as Mtshali, Ngcobo, Mveli and Toti appeared again and again in eye-witness statements describing violence.

* COSATU has brought a number of court interdicts against these warlords. Five applicants and witnesses were murdered after this but none of these murderers have been prosecuted. Despite a massive amount of evidence the warlords walk free and the police

continue to make no attempt to see that justice is done.

* On 19 March 1989 a certain Dladla, the Induna in the areas surrounding Mpophomeni, held a meeting after which members of the audience attacked residents in Haza killing a number of people. Although a police van was at the Induna's meeting no attempts were made to control the crowd.

* On the same day Mpophomeni residents noticed a group of armed vigilantes approaching residents from nearby KwaShifu. When a police van arrived the approaching vigilantes were pointed out to the police. The police



Another victim of the vigilantes

responded by sjambokking the residents! The next day police imposed a curfew on Mpophomeni and sjambokked the residents and youth. On 5 April vigilantes from KwaShifu again attacked the township and killed a youth. When the police arrived they fired teargas and birdshot at Mpophomeni residents and did nothing to disperse the attackers.

* At a funeral of NUMSA shopsteward, Jabu Ndlovu, Comrade Harry Gwala was sjambokked on his back by police while leaving the funeral.

* In the case of the Zondi family at Mvundlweni in Vulindela police failed to take sufficient steps to protect the family. This was after three members of the family, Mangaliso (65) his wife Metta (56) and their son Jamieson (31) were killed by vigilantes. Instead of protecting the family armed soldiers raided the Zondi house on 29 August 1989. It is alleged that the soldiers told those present that they would be shot if they did not co-operate.

* On 27 August 1989, Mandla Mthembu and Sandile Biyase were shot to death

by an individual called 'Toti' after returning from a peace meeting in Imbali. Although Mandla had previously been shot at and wounded by a 'Toti', the police only made arrests after the youths were killed.

These are just some of the events which have shown that the police are not interested in ending the violence or in stopping the activities of the warlords. They are only interested in trying to crush the Mass Democratic Movement.

This view has been officially announced by Adriaan Vlok who has placed the blame for the violence on the UDF and COSATU and threatened to take control in Pietermaritzburg with an 'iron fist'.

In a recent press statement COSATU posed the following questions? Firstly, are the police unable, or unwilling to arrest wrong-doers? Secondly, where are the guns that are being used in these shootings coming from? Thirdly, COSATU must ask why only the homes of UDF or COSATU supporters are searched for firearms when 'warlords' regularly are found to have committed crimes with unlicensed firearms?

It is not only in Natal that police have acted against our people. In the Western Cape for example police injured and killed scores of people who were protesting against the racist September 6 elections. Amongst those killed was a five months pregnant teenager, and a 69 year old woman who allegedly had her head blown off.

For the majority of people of SA it is clear that the role of vigilantes is nothing other than the tactic of 'divide and rule' Whether it is in the streets of Khayaltsha or in the townships of Pietermaritzburg, the police have shown no interest in creating a climate of peace and stability.

For us to win the fight for peace amongst the people in Natal we cannot rely on the police but on our own organisational strength. For this reason it is our most important task is to build mass organisations. Mass organisations serve to show the importance of democracy in the face of an undemocratic society. They teach us the importance of unity. They are our most important weapon for achieving peace and defeating the tactic of 'divide and rule'.

ORGANISE TO BUILD PEACE!

Thousands attend peace rallies



UDF and COSATU speakers address a rally at Wadley Stadium in Pietermaritzburg

Thousands of people marching behind the banner of COSATU and UDF have shown their determination to build a mass movement for peace in the region.

Over twenty thousand people attended the first open air peace rallies held in Natal.

At Curries Fountain in Durban 7 000 people attended. In Pietermaritzburg 10 000 COSATU/UDF supporters packed the Wadley stadium in Edendale. Other peace rallies were held at Mandini and Newcastle.

Speaking at the Pietermaritzburg rally, COSATU general-secretary, Jay Naidoo, emphasized the government's constant efforts to foil our attempts to stop the Natal violence.

'In 1987 we met with the local Chamber of Commerce to discuss how to end

this violence.

Meetings with Inkatha leaders were organised, but the government responded by detaining and harassing our leaders who participated in those peace attempts.'

He also told the gathering that consultations had taken place with the ANC. The ANC, he said, had fully supported the peace initiatives and had pledged to play a more direct role. He said further that there were certain forces that were determined that violence should continue.

'However, we must build our unity and strengthen our organisations so that, despite whatever attempts were made to provoke violence, we should be in a position to impose peace.'

Representing the Natal Youth Con-

gress, Makhosi Khoza paid homage to the 'young lions' and those who had lost their lives in the violence.

In the midst of the state of emergency and massive police presence at the rallies, the huge turnout of people indicated a continuing mass support in the region. 'Our organisations are alive in defiance of all attempts to crush us.'

The Joint Working Committee of COSATU and UDF is planning further report back peace rallies.

Every resident should become part of the mass movement for peace. Peace cannot be established only through talking around the table. We have to practically implement the peace process by attending rallies, popularising the peace process and above all building strong grassroots organisations.

The spirit of Comrade Luthuli lives on



Comrade Albert Luthuli

Chief Luthuli's name has come to be most closely related to the Defiance Campaigns of the 1950's. These campaigns were organised to resist the unjust and racist laws of the Apartheid regime.

As President of the ANC, the leading force in the Congress Alliance, Chief Luthuli united the people in a programme of mass action. Despite severe repression, the Congress alliance was still committed to peaceful methods of struggle right up to the Sharpeville massacre in 1960.

Six days after the Sharpeville emergency in 1960, The ANC sought to rally Africans to resistance by publicly burning passbooks. Chief Luthuli led the burning of passes in Pretoria, in accordance with an ANC decision. For this he was detained and held until August. He was thereafter sentenced to a R400 fine with a six - month suspended sentence. Soon after, he was to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, the first person in Africa to do so.

When he received the honour Comrade Luthuli told the world: 'Ours is a continent in revolution against oppression. And peace and revolution make uneasy bedfellows. There can be no peace until the forces of oppression are overthrown ...'

Even today, our people are still subjected to violence from the warlords, the vigilantes, the SAP and the SADF. The spirit of Chief Albert Luthuli lives on. It is in this spirit that Cosatu and U.D.F. have called for the building of a mass movement for peace.

BUILD A MASS MOVEMENT FOR PEACE!