

End Conscription Campaign
Grahamstown and Rhodes University

Harrassment Report (outline)

1) Detentions

Four members of the ECC have been detained under the emergency regulations. These are Melissa de Villiers (chairperson, Rhodes ECC), Bridget Hilton-Barber, Roelien Theron and Karen Thorne. Karen was released recently as the result of a court action; the others are still in detention.

2) Questioning

A person who lives in the same house as Wilhelm Liebenburg (chairperson, Grahamstown ECC), but who is not himself involved in ECC, was questioned on two occasions by the Security Branch. On the first occasion, he was involved in an accident while driving Wilhelm's car, and Lieutenant Lloyd Edwards and Sergeant Andy Louw of the Security Police arrived on the scene immediately afterwards (it is suspected that they may have been following the car) and took him to their offices for questioning. He was questioned extensively about the whereabouts of Wilhelm, and threatened with indefinite detention if he did not cooperate.

On a second occasion, about a month later, he was taken into the Security Branch offices while shopping in town, and again questioned about Wilhelm and a number of other people. He was again threatened with detention, and Sergeant Louw allegedly suggested that he should "barter" with the police, allegedly saying "if you tell us where Wilhelm is, then we'll let you go".

3) Physical Assault

Shortly before the declaration of the State of Emergency, an ECC member and a NUSAS member were walking together when they were attacked by an unknown person. They were both hit and kicked, without the attacker giving any reason. The assault lasted for between five and ten minutes, although no serious injuries were received. The incident was immediately reported to the police, who said that a police officer would take statements the following day. This did not happen, so a statement was drawn up and taken to the police statement. The police again said that they would come to the homes of the people involved to take "official" statements. This

did not happen, and nothing has been heard from the police about the incident.

4) Verbal Abuse

a) A member of ECC was sworn at and accused of being a "bungie" and told that "bungies and houts are all the same" by an unknown person in the Cathcart Arms hotel. The person making these comments told the ECC member that "Lloyd" (presumably Lieutenant Lloyd Edwards) had pointed her out to him.

b) A member of ECC was threatened over the phone with being "necklaced".

6) Threats of Deportation

Two people associated with ECC who have foreign passports have been threatened, directly or indirectly, with deportation. Both have since withdrawn from ECC.

7) Sneeze Powder

A large amount of sneeze powder was dumped on a Rhodes lawn where the ECC was due to hold a "Peace Fair" on 31 May.

8) Smear Pamphlets

Approximately ten smear pamphlets of various descriptions have been distributed at Rhodes University and in town. These included attempts to link ECC with the Soviet Union or with 'necklacing' and violent death, as well as personal attacks on individual ECC members. In one instance, a pamphlet accused an ECC member of having been convicted of shoplifting. The incident referred to occurred when the ECC member was 14 years old, and it is probable that such information could only be obtained from police records. Copies of the two pamphlets smearing individuals were sent to their parents. One of the smear pamphlets was distributed on the day of the ECC Peace Fair (see item 7), with the wording "keep off the grass". Most of the pamphlets bore the name "End the End Conscription Campaign" (EECC), with a logo similar to the ECC chain.

9) General Intimidation

- a) A number of ECC and NUSAS members have received regular phone calls, often late at night, and the phone has been put down when answered. In some cases, there has been either "heavy breathing" or music playing in the background.
- b) An unusually large number of phone calls made by ECC members have been suddenly cut off in the middle of the conversation.
- c) In the first few days after the State of Emergency was declared, several ECC members reported having seen or heard an intruder in the gardens of their houses. This person was clearly attempting to intimidate people, since he would go around the house knocking on windows and trying to open doors. This usually occurred when there was only one person in the house. The police were called on two occasions, but failed to catch the intruder.

10) Lloyd Edwards, P.I.

In May, two supporters of ECC who were pamphleteering in town were approached by Lieutenant Lloyd Edwards. He claimed to be an oppidan student who was rarely on campus and so didn't get a chance to read ECC literature. He asked a number of questions about ECC, and asked whether ECC literature could be sent to him. He also asked about the ECC Peace Fair which was due to take place (see item 7). The encounter ended when two students who knew Lloyd arrived, and introduced him as a lieutenant in the Security Branch.

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