

RESISTANCE OF WOMEN TO PASSES DURING 1957.

- January 30th. PIETERMARTITZBURG. 100 women of all races (A.N.C.W.L. C.O.D., S.A.C.P.O., Liberal Party, Natal Indian Congress) presented 800 signed protests to the Native Commissioner; afterwards reported to a large crowd of several hundred women.

- February 2nd. VENTERSPOST. N.A.D. officials went to Boitsoho Secondary School to issue passes to pupils. The principal urged the girls to accept the passes, but the girls insisted they must first consult their parents. The girls sang "Azithwala i Pasa" and 120 girls insisted on going home to consult parents, even when principal wanted to drop the matter.

- February 22nd. STANGER. After incident when Stanger nurses were arrested, kept overnight in the cells and fined £1 or 7 days for not having permits to reside in Stanger, 100 women of Stanger demonstrated at the registration office; the police broke up the procession and ordered the A.N.C. women who had come from Durban, to stand apart from the Stanger women, but the women refused to be separated. Florenze MKize (A.N.C.W.L. official) was forbidden to speak to the women.

- February 1957. RANDFONTEIN. Hundreds of women came from the farms and locations 2 days before the day appointed for registration and permits and the women refused to register.

- May 1957. LINOKHANA. (Zeerust district). The women demonstrated in Zeerust and resisted the passes. Passes taken by women were burnt and 13 women charged.

- BALFOUR. Women were threatened with consequences and penalties if they refused passes. They were told that their husbands would be dismissed from their jobs, business licenses would be cancelled; doctors services would be withheld, burial rites would be forbidden. N.A.D. officials called meeting to persuade women to take passes, but the women refused. Nine women who went to see their leader were arrested for holding a demonstration. The following day the women marched to the Superintendent's offices and were dispersed by a baton charge from the police.

- May 18th. JOHANNESBURG. 20,000 men and women from the Western Areas went to the City Hall to protest to the Mayor against passes and permits.

- (TRANSKEI) - Women sent by chiefs from 30 miles away to stand in queues during winter weather and in rain. Stood for 2 days - queues of 500 women. Finger prints taken of all five fingers, and women forced to remove their doeks).

- June 13th. - 1,000 women of all races demonstrate (organised by Federation of S.A. Women). Police interrupt procession and take names and addresses of all women. Women continue procession to parliament, singing defiance songs, and interviewed the Native's Representatives at the House of Assembly.

- June 1957. RANDJIESFONTEIN. Women from the farms refuse to take out passes when called to the Native Commissioner.

PIETERSBURG district. Women in reserves refuse to take out passes and chased N.A.D. Officials. At Meletjie 3,000 to 4,000 women were brought together. The Chiefs wives were supposed to give a lead to the women. 12 women were chosen to be the first to take passes, but turned their faces away from the camera. An uproar followed and stones were thrown at the N.A.D. officials who ran away. After 2 hours the police arrived with tear gas, but the women had dispersed by this time.

RUSTENBERG reserves. Chiefs and headmen held a special meeting to object to the passes.

June 26th 1957. QUEENSTOWN.

Women refused to take the passes.

UITENHAGUE.

Women burned the passes which had been taken earlier by women. Special Branch collected the ashes as evidence.

July 9th 1957. STANDERTON.

Passes issued earlier but only 37 women accepted. Demonstration organised from 3.30 a.m. Women marching in the streets crying "Ha li Tsewe". More than 1,000 women were arrested when the women refused to disperse. Men also asked to be arrested with the women. On the first day of the trial, 113 women were given a suspended sentence. The day before the trial was resumed, Standerton residents prepared to leave the town; cars were filled with petrol and all available ammunition purchased from shops. 914 women came in dignity and discipline to the Court and were all discharged.

July 25th 1957. PIETERSBURG.

3,000 women march to the pass unit and refuse to take passes.

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