

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MAMELODI YOUTH ORGANISATION AND THE
MAMELODI CIVIC ASSOCIATION ON THE ALLEGED ESCAPE
OF STANZA BOPAPE AND THE DETENTION OF OTHER
MAMELODI LEADERS
11 JULY 1988.

The detention of our leaders Stanza Bopape, Peter Maluleka and Bheki Nkosi, are viewed by both the Mamelodi Civic Association and the Mamelodi Youth Organisation with suspicion.

The allegations by the police that our general secretary Stanza Bopape has escaped from detention is even more horrifying. We would like to know why he and the other leaders were detained in the first place. Why did the police take so long before notifying his family about his detention and his alleged escape?

Others have 'escaped' from detention never to be seen again.

We are also concerned about the similarity of circumstances surrounding the detention of our leaders. Peter Maluleka, our chairperson, was abducted in the evening of the 10th of June. The police first denied that he was in custody, then they later confirmed it. When his wife paid him a visit they said he had been released. Then they wrote to his lawyers saying he was still in detention and they claimed that he was a member of the African National Congress.

Now we have this strange story about Stanza Bopape. This type of harassment will not stop us from continuing in our work of opposing the evil deeds of the apartheid regime.

We call on residents to exercise supreme discipline and not to be intimidated by the evils ways of this so-called government. These actions are the last kick of a mad dying horse.

FROM: COSATU
TO: LABOUR REPORTERS
DATE: 27 JULY
RE: DISAPPEARANCE OF STANZA BOPAPE

COSATU IS DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR STANZA BOPAPE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MAMELODI CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND A MEMBER OF THE MAMELODI YOUTH ORGANISATION.

MR BOPAPE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE JUNE 9 AND ATTORNEYS HAVE BEEN TOLD - ONLY ON JULY 4 - THAT MR BOPAPE ALLEGEDLY ESCAPED FROM CUSTODY ON JUNE 12.

THERE ARE SO MANY SUSPICIOUS ASPECTS TO THIS DISAPPEARANCE THAT WE - TOGETHER WITH HIS FAMILY - ARE ANXIOUS AND CONCERNED THAT MR BOPAPE MAY NOT BE ALIVE ANYMORE. IF MR BOPAPE IS ALIVE, WHY HAS HE NOT MADE ANY CONTACT WITH HIS FAMILY? AND WHY WERE LAWYERS TOLD ON JUNE 17 THAT MR BOPAPE WAS STILL BEING HELD IN DETENTION CELLS? AND WHY DID POLICE NOT MENTION THE ALLEGED ESCAPE IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE LAWYERS BETWEEN JUNE 12 AND JULY 4?

COSATU - ITSELF A VICTIM OF UNEXPLAINED EXTRA-LEGAL ATTACKS INCLUDING THE BOMBING OF COSATU HOUSE, OFFICIALS CARS AND AN ATTEMPTED MURDER OF JERRY THIBEDI (NORTHERN TVL COSATU CHAIRPERSON WHEN HIS HOUSE WAS BOMBED LAST YEAR) - WILL REMAIN SUSPICIOUS OF THE ROLE OF THE SECURITY FORCES UNTIL MR BOPAPE RE-APPEARS AND HIS SAFETY IS ESTABLISHED.

MR BOPAPE WAS ALSO A WORKER FOR THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND INFORMATION CENTRE (CRIC) WHICH AS A SERVICE ORGANISATION DOES NUMEROUS ASSIGNMENTS FOR TRADE UNIONS, PROVIDING INFORMATION THAT IS IMPORTANT IN THE WAGE BARGAINING PROCESS. WE REGARD THE RECENT ATTACKS ON THIS SERVICE ORGANISATION (INCLUDING THE DETENTION OF CRIC MEMBER BHEKI NKOSI - SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED - , AND THE ARSON ATTACK WHICH GUTTED THEIR OFFICES) AS A DIRECT ATTACK ON THE WORK OF TRADE UNIONS. IT IS PART OF THE WIDER ATTACK AIMED AT WEAKENING THE POWER OF THE TRADE UNIONS, AND COMES AT A TIME WHEN MANAGEMENT IS INCREASINGLY USING THE SOPHISTICATED STRATEGIES OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CONSULTANTS SCHOOLED IN THE TACTICS OF LABOUR-BASHING.

COSATU ALSO VIEWS WITH CONCERN THE INCREASED NUMBER OF YOUTH BEING DETAINED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. SOME ARE LEADERSHIP OF SAYCO AND OTHER YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, BUT MANY ARE ORDINARY MEMBERS OF YOUTH ORGANISATION. IT SEEMS THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED ON AN ALL OUT WAR AGAINST THE YOUTH.

DETENTION BEING WHAT IT IS, WE SHARE THE PARENTS CONCERN FOR THE WELLBEING OF THEIR DETAINED CHILDREN.

THE END RESULT WILL BE GREATER YOUTH MILITANCY AND DETERMINATION, AND SINCE THERE IS COMPLETE STATE TOLERANCE OF OPPOSITION, MORE YOUTH OPTING FOR ARMED STRUGGLE.

IT APPEARS THE STATE IS ACTING TO SNUFF OUT ANY OPPOSITION TO THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS - THEY ARE AWARE THAT THE SHARPEST OPPOSITION IN

PAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN THE TOWNSHIP CAME FROM YOUTH.

IN UNLEASHING SUCH WIDESPREAD REPRESSION THE STATE MAY BE UNDERMINING ITS OWN CASE. BY BANNING ORGANISATIONS, BY MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO OPPOSE THE ELECTIONS, BY MASS DETENTIONS, THE STATE IS LOADING THE DICE TOO MUCH AND TRYING TOO HARD TO MAKE THE WHOLE THING WORK.

REGARDS

COSATU

STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE
AND INFORMATION CENTER 7 SEPT, 1988

During the early hours of this morning, September 7, police arrested a number of people in the Pretoria townships of Mamelodi and Atteridgeville. Among these people are two staff members of the Community Resource and Information Centre, Mike Seloane and Bheki Nkosi.

Bheki Nkosi was detained with Stanza Bopape, a Cric staff member and General Secretary of the Mamelodi Civic Association, on the 9 June 1988. Cric and Stanza's family were informed three weeks later that Stanza had escaped from police custody on the 12 June, although the police did not notify any one of this until early July. Stanza has not been seen or heard from since.

After concerted media attention over Stanza's disappearance, Bheki was released on 13 July. He had been detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act, for purposes of interrogation. Since his detention and interrogation Bheki has been suffering from severe Post Traumatic Stress disorder and was receiving treatment for this. We are thus deeply concerned that he should be re-detained only six weeks after the ordeal of his last detention.

Mike Seloane, who was detained for three months earlier this year, was placed under harsh restrictions upon his release from detention. These restrictions have prevented him leaving his the Pretoria area or participating in a wide range of political activity. Notwithstanding these restrictions, the state has seen fit to re-detain Mike. Although this is now his fourth period of detention he has never been charged under laws.

Other known detentions at this stage are:

- * Oupa Masuku
- * Arthur Mkhwanazi
- * Reeves MABIRSI
- * KHORRAMI DAU

Cric condemns these detentions which are clearly part of a state campaign to further silence all opposition to the October Municipal elections.

Once again we protest the continued detention of our other staff members:

- * Moss Chikane, on trial for Treason in Pretoria;
- * Connie Hlatwayo, who has been detained since the first day of the Emergency and is now in hospital;
- * Elleck Nchabaleng, who has now been detained for two years;
- * Kgaogelo Lekgoro, who is entering his sixth month in detention.

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