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Tutu warns Uitenhage burnings harm race struggle

Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu warned yesterday that the burning of people in Uitenhage in the wake of violence in townships there last week could discredit the anti-apartheid struggle.

He added that he understood the people had acted in anger.

The bishop was speaking in Johannesburg at a commemoration service called by the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Pointing out that influx control and pass laws were still in force 25 years after the Sharpeville shootings, he said black people had tolerated nonsense for too long.

STRUGGLE

But we cannot accept that our struggle is assisted by the burning of people. Our cause is too good to be supported by methods which we will not be able to live with.

Bishop Tutu criticised President Ronald Reagan for his remarks on the Uitenhage shootings, saying "His statement is scandalous. I hope he is thoroughly ashamed of what he said."

Police in cars, vans and a modified bus were parked outside Khotso House, where the meeting was held. They took photographs of people leaving the building.

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