

**AJ20**



The past few months have seen the resounding rejection of PW Botha's policies by all sections of the oppressed community. The extent of this rejection has caused panic in the hearts of South African racists, with the tragic consequences that are now familiar.

The unleashing of police and military terror on the townships was met with popular anger and resistance. A situation of civil war now exists in a number of townships on the Witwatersrand.

The regime has repeatedly attempted to shift the blame for this situation from its own shoulders. It has blamed 'outside agitators', 'communists' and repeatedly, the UDF itself. 'Agitators' have to be manufactured because the root cause of the continuing conflict in South Africa is the incapacity of the apartheid state to respond to genuine popular grievances.

In the Vaal uprisings we saw the mass arrest of mourners at funerals and attempts to get them to admit liability for the killing of government agents and the burning of buildings. This masquerade is now continuing with over sixty Vaal residents being detained by the 'security' police.

In due course the state may try to launch a show trial, in an attempt to distract attention away from the regime's policies and to criminalise legitimate opposition in the townships.

The identical process has happened with the recent stay-away. Responding to massive popular grievances, 36 organisations participated in a stay-away in order to make various demands on the government. Trade union, student and community leaders have been detained and there is now talk of a show trial. It is speculated that people will be charged with 'economic sabotage' under section 54 of the Internal Security Act. This is a vague and extremely broad section in an act which would not find a place in any democratic society.



The United Democratic Front, together with other progressive organisations, is demanding the unconditional release of all the detainees. Calls for the detainees to be charged, being made among others, by the South African business community, ignore the fact that perfectly legitimate acts of opposition have been outlawed by the parliament of a regime that has no right to rule South Africa. Any suggestion that opponents of apartheid should be charged for their oppositin lends the semblance of legitimacy to this regime, which is rightly treated as an international pariah.

We therefore call on democrats throughout the world to join us in demanding the release of all detainees and to expose the illegitimacy of any attempt to criminalise those engaged in the struggle against the crime of apartheid

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**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

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