

TEMBISA

The further particulars (p.77) allege that Tembisa Civic Association, Tembisa Youth Organisation and COSAS organised over the period approximately 19 October 1984 to 23 November 1984 and there were riots and arson.

During 1984 three organisations were active in Tembisa. The most active ones were TCA (Tembisa Civic Association) and COSAS. Less active was TYO (Tembisa Youth Organisation formerly known as MOYO). During 1984 public meetings were held by these organisations. Placards of the UDF were put up and very many pamphlets were distributed. A placard of the UDF demanded that the SADF and police should withdraw from the townships. Exh ABA.47, a UDF pamphlet, called upon the readers to support the struggle against high rates and rents, against apartheid education, against unlawful detention, against police brutality and against government imposed community councils. The people are called upon to unite against Botha's army and the armed invasion of the Vaal. The pamphlet states: "Neither Le Grange's threats nor police harassment will stop resistance to apartheid".

The campaign against the councillors was mainly waged by the TCA. In that period slogans Viva ANC, Viva UDF, councillors must resign and AK.47 appeared.

It is common cause that during the period 19 October 1984 to 23 November 1984 there were serious riots in Tembisa. Road obstructions were erected consisting of refuse, stones, ash-cans, trees, etc and vehicles which were used were stopped. All traffic was brought to a standstill. Train traffic was brought to a standstill after four coaches had been set alight. Houses, shops, vehicles and liquor halls were set alight. A number of buses were damaged and a ticket-office. Postal services were obliged to suspend all maintenance services during this period. Police vehicles were stoned and the houses of police and members of the Black management bodies were attacked, plundered and burnt. On 31 October three buses and a bakkie were stoned and damaged. Private vehicles were stoned and set alight. Two schools were stoned and set alight.

Especially on 5 and 6 November 1984, the days of the stay-away, there were very serious riots. Seven people died during fights with the police.

On 17 November 1984 a mass funeral for these seven people was held. The Mathole cinema and the Jan Lubbe stadium were used. At the funeral banners of COSAS, FEDSAW, UDF and MAYO (Mamelodi Youth Organisation) were exhibited. Amongst the seven deceased was the daughter of Mrs Mabel Manuel. Although she had arranged and paid for a funeral for her daughter the body was hijacked by COSAS and she was not even notified of the date of this funeral. Her daughter was buried

under a different surname without her mother's knowledge. This incident affords clear proof of the hijacking of funerals by activists for their own political purposes.

The programme of this funeral is available in the form of exh ABA.46. Speakers are interspersed with freedom songs. Inter alia the TCA, SOYCO, COSAS and UDF are indicated as speakers.

MOYA Youth Association, COSAS and FEDSAW were affiliated to the UDF.

The defence led evidence of Ngobese, one time secretary of the TCA, that that body was not affiliated to the UDF. This evidence was false.

In exh A.1 p.60, the official UDF documents on the launch, it is mentioned as having participated in the national conference of the UDF on 20 August 1983. This was never disputed by accused No 19 or accused No 20 when they gave evidence. Ngobese had the UDF constitution and its declaration in his possession as well as a UDF calendar of 1984 and other UDF documents. On 24 September 1984 an emergency UDF working document reflected that the TCA should possibly be allocated under the Johannesburg area committee of the UDF, with priority assignment inter alia community, workers' and students' struggles. Exh C.118:

The minutes of the REC Transvaal UDF of 15 November 1984 (exh S.15) reflect that a representative of the Tembisa chamber of commerce sought a consultation with the UDF. This was at the height of the violence. The minutes note:

"The executive agreed to this meeting only after clear consultation has been made with our officials in this area."

The REC minutes of 7 February 1985 note under correspondence with COSAS that that organisation had requested that accused No 20 speak at its meeting on 16 February 1985. Exh S.20.

We find proved that at all relevant times there was a close relationship between the UDF and its affiliates TCA and COSAS in Tembisa and also between those two organisations themselves.

There is no direct evidence who the perpetrators of the violence were. The mass funeral was arranged by COSAS for their own political ends. The deceased were all youths shot by the South African Police, Railway Police and a shop owner on 5 November 1984 during the stay-away. This stay-away had been called by COSAS and other organisations and was supported by the Transvaal UDF who arranged for lawyers to be on stand-by during the distribution of pamphlets calling for the stay-away. Exh S.15.

The TCA had close links with COSAS. On 28 October 1984 these organisations held a joint public meeting on increased bus fares, high rents and the school crisis. Exh CA.39. As mentioned, a few weeks later the TCA supplied the first speaker at the COSAS mass funeral where (it seems) only UDF affiliates and the UDF itself were on the programme.

That the UDF was to speak here also appears from the UDF's Occurrence Book which further evidences the close contact between the UDF and Tembisa. On 4 October 1984 the UDF was requested to supply a speaker for the memorial service for Brian Mazibuko on 14 October 1984 at Tembisa held by TYO at which a COSAS banner was displayed. On 13 November 1984 the UDF was informed telephonically that the SADF was conducting a raid in Tembisa. Exh AM.15 pp.18, 27, 29 and 30. Exh S.10 para 5.

The UDF was active in Tembisa from early in 1984. A report by the UDF Transvaal signature committee on the UDF signature campaign in Transvaal found in the UDF offices Johannesburg states that meetings of activists had been held there. Exh AL.42. In fact signed million signature campaign forms were found in the possession of Ngobese, the secretary of the TCA.

There had been grievances in the community about the bucket system and the lack of electricity in the houses. The electrification project had, however, started already in 1983, as had the installation of a sewerage system and these projects were continuing. In 1984 there was a protest about the bucket system. A rent increase of R4,00 per month was announced to finance electricity but rescinded on technical grounds in April 1984 after the TCA had held a mass meeting. In May 1984 the town council again advertised the proposed rent increase and the TCA held a further mass meeting and forwarded their complaints to the town council. A meeting was held between the town council and the TCA in June 1984 at which police were present. At that stage buses had been stoned in Tembisa. The meeting was not conclusive and the TCA called a further mass meeting on 1 July 1984 to report back. The TCA had been reported as furthering violence and Ngobese at this meeting spoke out against violence. The rent was in fact not increased in 1984 and there was no rent boycott.

There is no indication that these grievances gave rise to the violence in Tembisa.

In passing it may be mentioned that as we have seen with other civics affiliated to the UDF, so the TCA claimed to represent 83% of the people of Tembisa, without itself having a single registered member.

The cause of the violence must be sought in the school boycotts.

In March 1984 there was a week long class boycott at Tembisa High School but everything returned to normal. The school boycotts started in earnest in mid July 1984. Their origin was the Boitumelong High School. On 23 July the Tembisa High School decided to "unite" with them and call a boycott. After warning the pupils to return to school by 31 July, which warning was ignored, the Department of Education and Training closed the schools. The pupils continued to gather and hold meetings and sing freedom songs in the school premises. After three days the police ordered them to leave. Upon their refusal they were forcibly dispersed. The pupils continued to meet thereafter.

There existed a COSAS committee for the three high schools of Tembisa which had an office in Tembi Centre. We have no doubt that COSAS was deeply involved in the school boycott and that it was not spontaneous as the defence would have us believe. The complaints and the calls for SRC's are the same as elsewhere and the timing thereof corresponds with the boycotts in the other centres. There was also the same attitude. The pupils refused to go back to school till their grievances were redressed.

There was violence since July, according to the witness Modise. In September 1984 he witnessed the attack on a bread van.

It is a familiar pattern that emerges. Grievances are blown up out of proportion. A boycott follows which is so total that coercion must of necessity be a component thereof. The children are put on the streets where they congregate and do mischief. The police intervene and have to use force to disperse them. This leads to further violence. There are deaths. The organisations who have throughout supported the pupils in their struggle against the state, which they regard as part of the freedom struggle, capitalise on those deaths for propaganda purposes and heighten the political awareness of the masses. The violence of the state is stridently decried, the hooligans become martyrs and no word is said about violence against the police who attempt to maintain law and order. In the forefront of the struggle is COSAS, fully backed up by the UDF.



# 1. TEMBISA

Phillip

c/o Trasco Office  
cnr Jeppe &  
Troye Street

ph: 337-8645 (temp)  
h:

student or ex-student,  
was key Cosas activist,  
now works for Trasco

Tsepo

c/o Trasco Office

ph 337-8645 (temporarily)

home add:

also ex-student and  
Cosas activist

Greg Tulare

40 Gill de Vlieg

ph 788 4043 (h)  
29 3088 (w)

youth activist, was on  
~~trial~~ trial -  
need to find details of  
issue

Gill de Vlieg

ph 788 4043 (h)  
29 3088 (w)

Black Sash member who  
works a lot with Tembisa  
activists. Knows many.  
Also has often attended  
funerals, meetings etc in  
Tembisa.

Tembisa Traders

Was an incident where  
some traders came to  
UDK to complain about  
youth. Popo/<sup>Ferrox</sup> may know  
more.

Tembisa Women's Organisation

Need to find contacts from Fedtraw. Some good articulate, more elderly women.

Saamu, Kempton Park

920 2347

Concentrates mainly on Tembisa. Some relatively good organisers have been there. Could find them.

Figo ?

ex-Robben Islander.

Difficult to trace.

Sycat had work phone number

Eric Ndlamandla

836 - 7185 (w) WCC

or 28 - 2251 (w) SACC

369 Emangweni Section

Tembisa

SACC fieldworker ~~for~~ Tembisa.

Knows many people including

a consultant D. Sombago

who has resigned and

would be willing to talk.

Many sympathetic church people in area.

Joe

Oeswin organiser. V. Good.

Greg Malcho

Gawu official.

23 0512 ? (check)

NB MBham has many court cases relating to this period

## **DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985-1989**

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