

AC7

BANTUSTAN REPRESSION

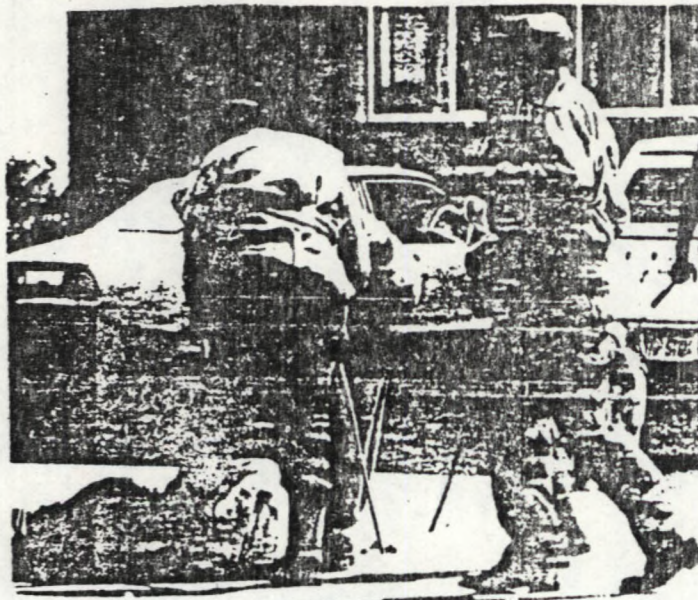
AT

UNITRA

Beaw'AC 711

EDUCATION IN CRISIS

Black education in South Africa has reached another crisis point with the racist State and its bantustan extensions more prepared to crush student opinion in our campuses and schools. The closure of the Atteridgeville schools is a manifestation of this. At the same time we see detention and harassment of a number of students at Fort Hare by Sebe government. Matanzima has declared a state of virtual martial law in Transkei, has detained a large number of students at Unitra and deported academics. The university has since been closed down by the police and all students expelled.



REPRESSION AT UNITRA

During the graduation ceremony at Unitra at the end of April the rector, Prof. Van der Merwe stated in his address that in future he is going to uproot all "politicians" on campus and only "academic" activities will be allowed. This was an indication of things to come. Soon after this on 8 May 1984, four students (3 SRC members and one House Committee member) were informed to report at the Academic Registrar's office on Wed. 9 May 1984 at 9.00 a.m. That morning these students were then transported from the Registrar's office in a university vehicle to the State Security offices in Umtata.

The rest of the Student Body convened a meeting at 1.00 p.m. after learning of these detentions. This meeting was adjourned to 3.30 p.m. in order to wait for part-time students who start lectures later in the afternoon.

Later the detained students were released during the course of the meeting and they informed the Student Body that they were to report again to the security offices the following day.

The Student Body meeting then resolved to boycott classes with immediate effect until they were assured that these students will not be detained or if detained should be charged immediately.

That evening by 9.00 p.m. the university was cordoned off by police and roadblocks were mounted at the entrances until the following morning. At about 9.45 that morning, the registrar (academic), Mr S.D. Majokweni, accompanied by the Chief of Security police Cl. L. Kawe read out a notice informing the students about closure of the university. All students were to vacate the campus by 10.00 a.m. that same morning and should report back on Monday 14 May. This ultimatum was signed by the Chief of Security Police.

Many students were left stranded with no accommodation and it was through the help of the Transkei Council of Churches and other sympathetic community members that alternative accommodation was organised. A curfew

was announced for students not to be seen out in the streets between 6.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.

On Monday, 14 May the four students were still in detention and the boycott continued. All meetings were subsequently banned and the staff could not meet to discuss the issue.

That afternoon the students were ordered into the university library where the police baton charged them. More students were detained. Four academics were then deported out of Transkei. Lecturers and students at Unitra have been struck by fear and insecurity because they cannot predict what might happen to anyone of them at any moment. Top academics have been expelled and many of them are wondering how teaching can go on at the university without lecturers.

WE CALL FOR UNITY AND SUPPORT

1. Many students at Unitra are stranded for accommodation, financial assistance etc. AZASO therefore appeals to all members of our community, especially in Transkei to give whatever support they can to our fellow brothers and sisters or children.
2. The situation at Unitra deserves outright condemnation from all sectors of our community. We, therefore, call upon everyone to join Unitra students and AZASO in the demand for the unconditional release of detained students and readmission of all students.

We also demand the end to harassment and intimidation of genuine student leaders.

3. Finally, we call upon all Unitra students to be united and support their representative student leaders. We also call upon all universities and colleges throughout South Africa to register support for Unitra students in whatever manner they can.

We must not allow repression and intimidation to stop our determination to fight for our rights on campuses and an end to white minority rule.

☆☆☆ highlights ☆☆☆

☆☆☆☆☆

FORT HARE

At Fort Hare University there has been a number of boycotts in the last 2 weeks. This was due to detention of a number of students by the Sebe government.

Admission of students at this campus is through the approval of the Ciskei bantustan. Therefore repression here has become very severe and more detentions can be expected.

ONGOYE

Students at this campus are again making a call for an end to Bantustan interference in University matters.

The demand from the students that Chief Gatsha Buthelezi should resign as chancellor at Ongoye, has received massive support from most academics on campus and outside. This call has intensified since the tragedy at Ongoye last year when an Inkatha impi murdered 4 students and more than a hundred others were injured. Gatsha Buthelezi is the leader of Inkatha and also the chief minister of Kwa-Zulu.

Therefore an appeal has been made to all students and parents to boycott the coming graduation ceremony on 30 June 84, and subsequent ones as long as Gatsha is still the chancellor at the University.

LET US UNITE AND FIGHT

ISSUED BY AZASO

Collection Number: AK2117

DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location: **Johannesburg**

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.