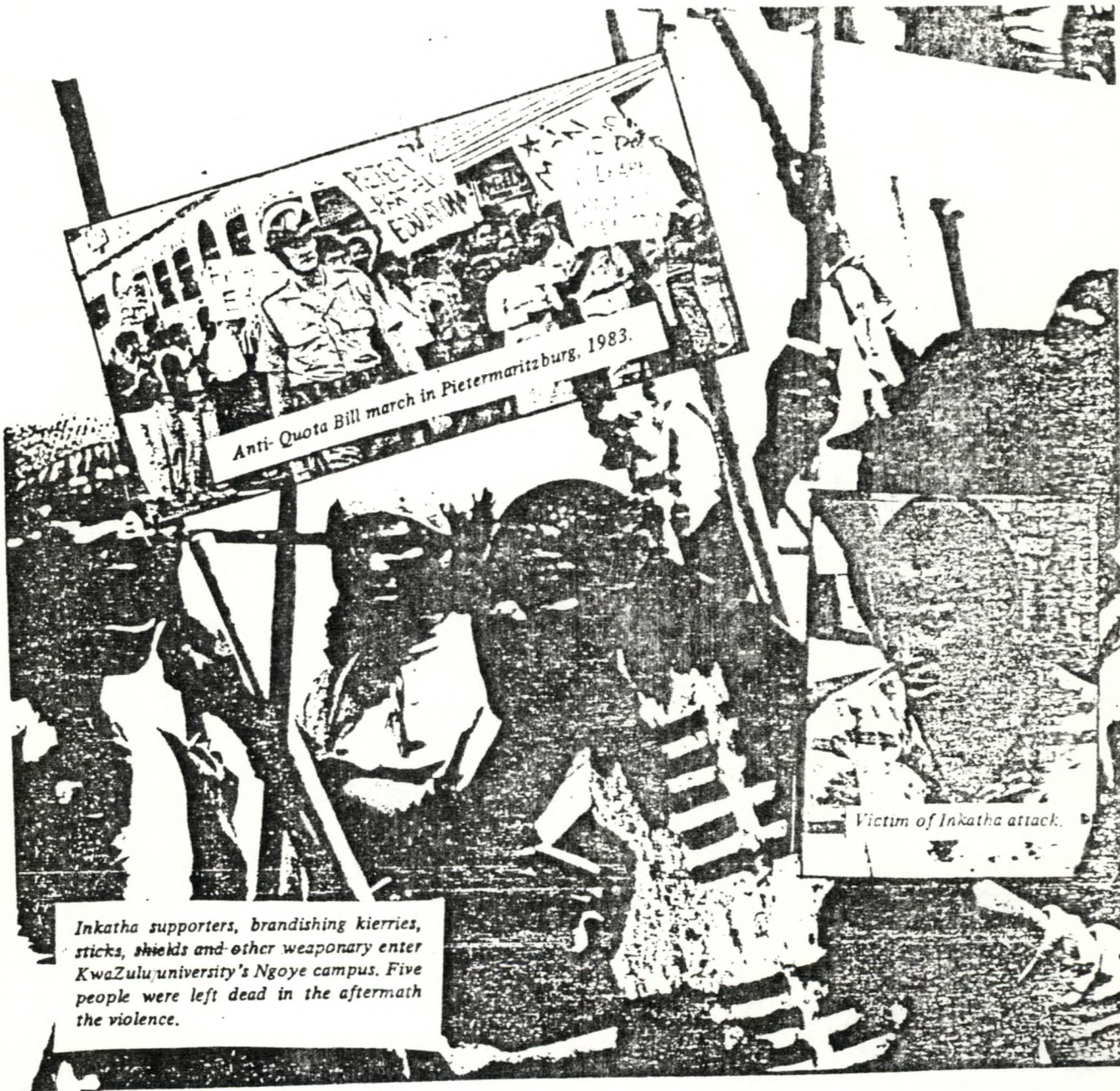


W17

AZASO

Azanian Students Organisation

organising for a peoples education



Anti-Quota Bill march in Pietermaritzburg, 1983.

Victim of Inkatha attack.

Inkatha supporters, brandishing kierries, sticks, shields and other weaponry enter KwaZulu university's Ngoye campus. Five people were left dead in the aftermath the violence.

ORIENTATION NEWS

President's Message...

I, on behalf of the National Executive of Azaso extend a comradely hand of welcome to all students registered in our different institutions for the academic year of 1984. No doubt you have gone over many obstacles in your endeavour to attain some education. Many of our people who equally yearn for education and are just as industrious as you, have been denied education. We should, therefore, during our period of study, never lose sight of the realities of our country and our people. We should and must at all times, join hands with them in struggles for a just order in our land.

The past year hasn't been an easy one for our people as a whole. We have witnessed intensified attempts to further divide our people with the PC proposals. The repressive machinery of the State has also been at work over the past year. Our people in Ciskei have in particular been subject to repression unparalleled in our history. It has also been another year of low wages, high prices and rents. Another year of lack of housing, of dismissals of thousands of our parents from their places of work.

The past year has been equally turbulent for us as students. Gun-totting teachers and high failure rates have almost become a permanent feature of our education. Our campuses are at life-torn. At Turfloop, 400 students were expelled this year, Azaso has been banned at UDW, police were let loose on students at Fort Hare and, at Ngoye, five of our fellow students were brutally murdered at the hands of INKATHA. Never before has it been clearer that our institutions are just extensions of the unjust order in South Africa.

Our theme for 1984 is 'ORGANISING FOR A PEOPLE'S EDUCATION'. This theme was chosen in the light of the fact that we of AZASO and our sister organisation COSAS and millions of other South Africans find our education system abhorrent, unjust and unacceptable. Our education system is designed to get us to blindly accept the status quo or at the very least, not challenge it. It is designed to ensure perpetual domination of the majority by a minority to perpetuate a system of exploitation and oppression, to inculcate racist values and to dominate.

Our people have always said No to this form of education. They have rejected it in the fifties, the seventies and the eighties. They have always demanded an education that will unite all of us and build a new and dynamic nation of South Africa. They have always demanded an education system that will be determined by the majority of the people - a democratic education system.

Throughout these struggles for a non-racial democratic education system, our people have made many demands. AZASO and COSAS have seen the need to concretise all these demands, consult with all the peoples of our country: the workers, professionals, teachers, communities, and produce guidelines acceptable to the majority of our people that will define clearly what kind of education the people of South Africa demand.



Tiego Mosaneke, AZASO President

It is with regard to all this that in 1984 we call on all of you to critically examine your education, consult with as many of our people as is possible and join in a campaign to be led by COSAS and AZASO to formulate a People's Education. We, of necessity this year need to organise ourselves effectively, each to as many students as possible in order to be able to achieve this formidable task.

This is the year when we should demand democratic, independent representative student structures on our campuses, a year when we have to demand that our communities have greater and meaningful say in the running of our institutions, a year when we have to reject the control over institutions by Bantustans, a year when our national student organisation AZASO must be given its full and due recognition, a year when unity amongst all students shall be primary.

We are a student organisation, and our primary site of struggle is education. We, however, know that our demands for a non-racial and democratic education system will never be met in this unjust order. This, therefore, necessitates our constant participation in the broader struggle of our people at all times. It is for this reason that we join the UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT and shall continue to participate in all its activities in a quest for a just, non-racial democratic South Africa.

AZASO calls on all of you to make 1984 a year in which our people's dream of concretising our education demands and a dream of a strong united student force shall be accomplished.

ORGANISE FOR A PEOPLE'S EDUCATION
FORWARD
ALUTA CONTINUA

FOCUS ON BANTUSTAN UNIVERSITIES

The "Ciskei" army and police regularly invade the Fort Hare campus to crush the peaceful protests of students. 57 students were arrested during a Biko day demonstration. After that police have maintained a constant presence and enforced a curfew at the university. At the end of 1983 students heard of yet another development: that "non-Ciskei" students will not be admitted unless they obtain ministerial consent. This is to force students to recognise the "Ciskei Government" and to control the type of students being admitted to University of Fort Hare.

On October 29, the civilised world was shocked with the news of the death of 5 students at Ngoya at the hands of Inkatha. This was the result of Inkatha's desire to stamp its authority on students. A number of students have been informed that they would not be admitted to the university for 1984 (mainly UDF and AZASO supporters.)

OUR RESPONSE:

We must be firm in our response to actions that curb our right to demonstrate against the problems we face. We must expose these actions by keeping students informed of events on the bantustan campuses. Where possible AZASO branches must ask their university admins to condemn such action. Students must protest strongly against the suppression of fellow - students.

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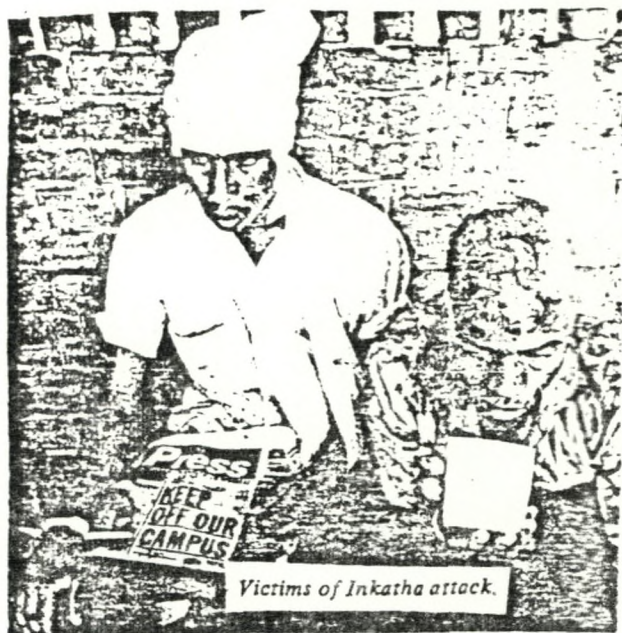
NATIONAL SOLIDARITY

AZASO members will continue responding to attacks on fellow students. Our national solidarity has been displayed during various crises: Fort Hare in 1982; Turfloop and Ngoya in 1983, UNB in 1984. Our solidarity is based on the slogan "AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

GENERAL:

As an integral part of the democratic movement in SA we must continue to forge links with worker, community, women and youth organisations. AZASO branches will also commemorate important days of the People's calendar. National focus weeks will be held during the year. During June 16, 1983 week we focused on bantu education.

Our programme can only succeed through the active participation of every student on all campuses. We trust we can rely on your participation!



Victims of Inkatha attack.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST REFORMS

The government is busy making changes to the constitution of the country - changes which are aimed at dividing and co-opting sections of the oppressed people. The United Democratic Front was formed last year to campaign against these reforms.

Realising that students have an important role to play in their communities AZASO was the first organisation to affiliate to the UDF. Our branches mobilised students against the "reforms" through protest meetings, pamphlets, seminars, plays etc.

We shall continue to fight against these reforms in 1984 under the umbrella of the UDF. We must focus on :

- * Million signature campaign
- * Conscription campaign.
- * Koornhof bills.
- * Election for Indian and Coloured parliaments.



AZASO — FOR STUDENT UNITY

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