

DETENTIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
EXILES ETC  
5-6

# FREEDOMS WE HAVE LOST

JEAN SINCLAIR

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"IT IS DIFFICULT for those who have not themselves lived through the gradual establishment of a tyranny to understand the subtle dangers of the 'softening-up' process, the effect on all but the strongest personalities of intimidation. Laws which would have aroused the fiercest opposition in 1947 meet with sullen acquiescence in 1957." —*"Civil Liberty in South Africa,"* by Edgar H. Brookes and J. B. Macaulay.

AND from 1957 to 1969?

Detention without trial.

Gagging without trial.

More people placed under house arrest without trial.

More passports withdrawn and refused with no reason given.

No longer is a person innocent until proved guilty. Some of our laws now state that you are guilty until you have proved your innocence.

We all forget what we have lost under this government.

WHAT HAVE WE LOST?

Freedom from arbitrary arrest and punishment.

The protection of our courts.

The right to know.

The right to explain.

HOW DID WE LOSE IT?

1950: The Suppression of Communism Act defined Communism so widely that avowed anti-Communists are deemed Communists; and gave the Minister powers normally held by the courts.

1953: The Criminal Procedure Act further diminished the powers of the courts, allowing the Minister to refuse bail and to order summary trials.

1962: The Sabotage Act defined sabotage so widely that many normal activities can be punished as "sabotage" in certain circumstances.

1963: 90-day detention clause; replaced by

1965: 180-day detention clause allowing detention for indefinitely recurring periods of 180-days and excluding the courts from access to persons detained.

1967: The Terrorism Act provided for indefinite detention for interrogation and defined terrorism so widely as to include "embarrassing the administration of the affairs of State." This Act was made retrospective for five years before it became law.

1969: The Boss Act makes it an offence, punishable with up to seven years' jail, to communicate anything about security, including anything about what the Bureau for State Security itself is doing. It also deprives the courts of the right to decide whether evidence shall enjoy State privilege, i.e. be silenced. This applies to evidence affecting not only security but also the "interests of the State."

WHERE INNOCENCE MAY NOT HELP YOU

A POLICE SPOKESMAN has confirmed that in the latest swoop between 30 and 40 people are being held under the Terrorism Act in Pretoria. How many are there all over the country?

We have no means of knowing. We are told we have no right to know. Their relatives have no right to know. Parliament has no right to know.

The Minister refused to give figures to Parliament of the number of people detained under the Terrorism Act because "it is not in the public interest."

When asked if all detainees were visited by a magistrate at least once a fortnight he replied "Yes, except in exceptional cases, where the circumstances did not permit such visits."

When asked how many were not so visited, for what period, and what were the circumstances, his reply was "in view of the volume



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of work involved in the collection of the particulars asked for it is not practicable to furnish the required information."

If this happened to you, your certainty of your innocence would avail you nothing.

**FOUR PEOPLE** have died this year while in detention; one on the day following his arrest, one three days after, one four days after and one three months after.

**THIRTY-TWO** people were detained during 1968 under Proclamation 400 of 1960 in the Transkei. Seven people had already been detained this year under this Proclamation by May 20.

**TWENTY-SEVEN** people were detained under 180-days in 1968. Eleven people had already been detained this year under this clause by May.

**BANNED WITHOUT TRIAL:**

On August 30, 1968, 490 people were living under banning orders. Others have been banned since that date.

Mr. Robert Sobukwe, released from jail after serving six years detention imposed by Parliament, in addition to the three years he was sentenced to by the Court, was immediately placed under severe restriction orders.

Forty-two people are at present subject to house arrest. Eleven house arrest orders have been renewed for a further five years. Nine of these people have to report daily to a police station.

If this happened to you, your certainty of your own innocence would avail you nothing.

**BANISHED WITHOUT TRIAL**

39 people are at present subject to removal orders in terms of the Bantu Administration Act.

**PASSPORTS REFUSED:**

322 people were refused passports or travel documents in 1968. Sixty-nine people left the Republic on exit permits during 1968. They can never return.

The Government spends thousands of rands each year publicizing South Africa overseas but 1,251 applications for visas to visit South Africa were refused during 1968.

What have we got to hide?

**PEACE AT ANY PRICE . . .**

" . . . We can live in the year 1969 in a South Africa which is calm and peaceful . . ."  
— the Prime Minister.

A strange sort of peace when bannings, banishments, house arrests, detention without

trial, passports refused, secret police, informers, interrogation are an accepted part of our everyday life.

When a minority government imposes the destructive policy of apartheid upon an unwilling majority, government by fear becomes inevitable.

**No law**

I am deprived of speech;  
Neither by word nor pen  
Can I communicate;  
Nor can you speak to me.  
I am held.

They came quietly in the night  
And took me away  
Without saying where I was going.  
Perhaps they did not wish to tell me  
That it was to a small bare room  
With a window too high to see from.

I cannot see the stars nor the moon  
Nor the clouds nor the magical dawn,  
Nor sunlight on the water,  
Nor the south-easter blistering the face of the ocean,  
Nor the mountain in all its different colours,  
Nor the people in the streets.

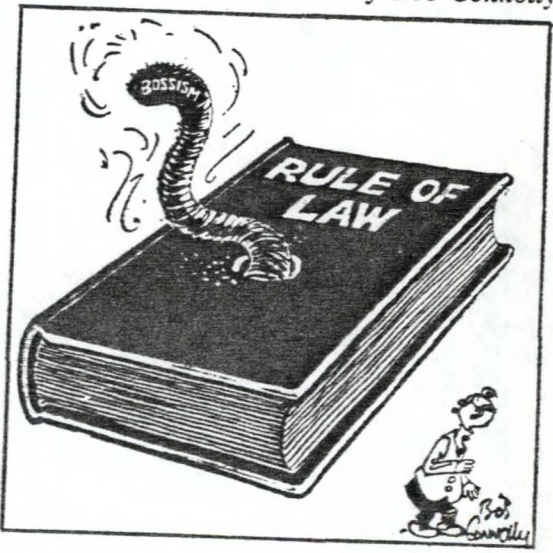
I can't even hear them.  
This little room  
Must be very far away.

It is too small to walk in very much.

— Barbara G. Brock.  
(Reprinted from the Cape Times)

**BOOK-WORM**

by Bob Connolly



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**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

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