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REPORT ON REPRESSION IN GALESHEWE,
KIMBERLEY

BY P. LEPHUMBA OF THE LDF 13TH & 14TH APRIL 1985

During the 1980 school boycotts, five students were charged and convicted under the terrorism act. They were sentenced to ten years imprisonment. Towards the end of 1984 the Appeal Court confirmed the conviction but reduced the sentence to five years imprisonment. This factor, as it will appear later on in the report, was one of the main factors in the unrest.

On the 30th January 1985 the students decided at a mass meeting held at St. Bonaface to boycott classes in solidarity with these five students. The boycott was to last for two weeks. On that day thirty-three students were arrested and detained. Twenty of the them were charged and fined R50,00 each and the remaining thirteen were released. Of the twenty that were charged, the majority of them were either expelled or suspended from classes. This led to a further boycott on or about the 7th February 1985.

On the 26th February 1985 one hundred students were detained and charged with the offence of trespassing on school premises. The female students were fined R10,00 each and the male students received seven cuts each. None of the above persons are represented in Court.

On the 20th March 1985, a shop belonging to the mayor and trucks belonging to a furniture company were ^{burnt} burned and the buses in the township were stoned. This led to the appearance

of 19 people in Court on the following day, were charged with public violence. This case has been remanded to the 22nd April 1985 all the accused in this matter are represented by Priscilla Jana.

On the 21st March 1985 the students marched to commemorate the Sharpeville shootings. Thirteen students were detained and charged. All the accused are presently in custody and the case has been remanded to the 3rd June 1985.

On the 26th March 1985, nine students were arrested and charged with public violence. They are presently in custody.

On the 30th March 1985, soldiers were deployed in the township. They were withdrawn on the 1st April 1985. On the 1st April 1985 the house of the school inspector and the deputy mayor was burned. Some students were charged with the offence of public violence in connection with this.

On the 9th April 1985 two bakery vans and a truck belonging to a Coca-Cola company were looted. The soldiers were re-deployed in the townships they were about two hundred in number and heavily armed.

On the 10th April 1985 the high schools and secondary schools were closed after the Easter holiday. On the 11th April 1985

Thomas Morebudi, fourteen years of age was shot dead. Circumstances surrounding his shooting are still not very clear. Initially the police refused the mother permission to identify the body. On the 14th April 1985 I spoke to the mother of Thomas Morebudi and attended on the Security Police at Kimberley to enquire about the post-mortem and inquest. On the same day I also attended on the Kimberley hospital to visit two scholars Patrick Diedricks and Leon Nkoane. When I reached the hospital I was informed that Patrick Diedricks was removed a few minutes earlier by the Security Police.

The casualty least thus far is that three people have lost their lives and approximately one hundred people have been assaulted. The three deceased persons, two of them have been buried in mysterious circumstances. According to reports it is alleged that the Security police had entered into a certain agreement with the parents to have these children buried. I tried to speak to the parents of the deceased children but from report it appears that they would not be interested in re-opening this case.

STUDENTS' GRIEVANCES

1. Democratic SRC's.
2. Shortage of text books.
3. Abolition of corporal punishment.

4. /...

4. Putting a stop to sexual harassment of female students by teachers.
5. Extra recreational facilities for St. Bonaface High School.
6. Those who failed matric should be allowed to attend classes and write the exams on the following year.

An important factor is that there is a great degree of confusion as to which students are being represented legally and those students that are not being represented. According to report from students some have already appeared in Court without legal representation.

ATTITUDE OF CHURCHES

The general consensus is that the churches are reluctant to help the students. According to reports it appears that the Community Councillors are applying tremendous pressure on the churches. It is suggested that the SACC get in touch with the church ministers in the area to resolve this problem.

REACTION OF PARENTS

In the main, parents are very angry with the present situation in the township. Their anger is further aggravated by the presence of soldiers. It appears that the parents are on the side of students. But a lack of a parents organisation does

not afford the parents an opportunity of expressing their support.

PEOPLE DETAINED LAST WEEK

1. Christopher Swazi
124 Amakhuzane Street
BORN: 18th February 1968
MOTHER: Rebecca Swazi

2. Michael Mabote
6963 Mathibe Street
BORN: 15th October 1968
MOTHER: Louisa Mabote

3. Nathaniel Mosikare
105 Adamnomakola Street
BORN: 9th March 1965
MOTHER: Miriam Mosikare

4. Maria Leonard
28 Gaborone Street
BORN: 2nd November 1967
MOTHER: Maggy Leonard

5. Norman Letlhage
6771 Adamnomakola Street
BORN: 2nd February 1966
MOTHER: Dorothy Letlhage

6. Lorraine Douman
87 Adamnomakola Street
BORN:
GRANDMOTHER: Maria Seleka

7. Patrick Selebogo
7965 Mcetwa Street
BORN: 5th September 1969
MOTHER: Emily Selebogo

8. George Seinolo
7755 Gaitsewe Street
BORN: 1st March 1968
MOTHER: Pauline Seinolo

9. Plus one other person not known.

A whole lot of people are appearing in Court without legal representation and it is also not clear who represent who.

There is tremendous organisational work to be done.

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DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

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