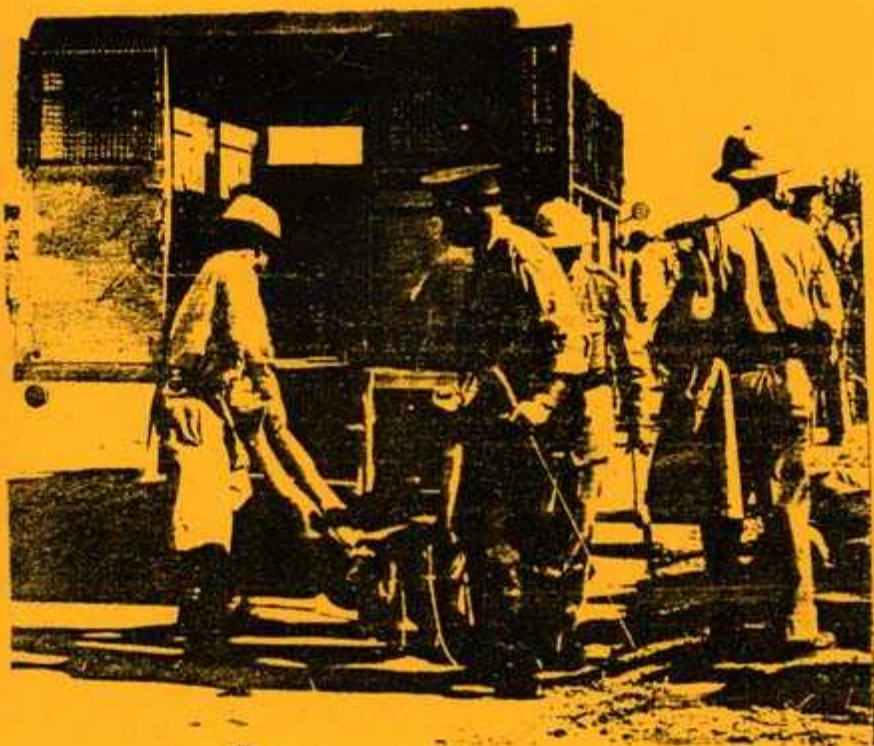


# SHARPEVILLE

21 MARCH 1960

TO ALL THOSE WHO REFUSED TO LIVE AND DIE  
ON THEIR KNEES



Those stains that have refused to  
go off the floors of police buildings;  
will be our witness as the sands of time wash in  
and refresh what we profess;  
by then history shall have absolved us all  
against those who rule with guns.

ON HEROES' DAY WE PLEDGE THE RESISTANCE WAY.

## LEST WE FORGET

Sharpeville did not just happen. It should not be seen in isolation. It was a culmination of a long history of resistance by our people. The history of South Africa, leading to Sharpeville, is the tragic of military suppression political oppression, economic exploitation and the social degradation of the people.

The government reaction to the peaceful demands of the people is brutality and violence as manifested in Sharpeville, Cato Manor, Langa, Soweto 1976 deaths in detention, detention without trial, bannings, banishments, raids into neighbouring countries, forced removals etc.

On Heroes Day we remember all the martyrs of our struggle who paid the Supreme Sacrifice for a liberated, anti-racist Azania:

We dedicate this day to all those who REFUSED TO LIVE AND DIE ON THEIR KNEES.

### EVENTS LEADING TO SHARPEVILLE

VILLAGE DEEP: FEBRUARY 1920 - Eight miners were killed after police opened fire after 40 000 African miners went on strike protesting against the general working conditions.

BULHOEK (NTABELANGA) MAY 1921 - 163 Blacks were killed and 129 injured in the struggle between the police and the people of Ntabelanga who refused to be evicted against their will.

BONDELZWARTS : NAMIBIA MAY 1922 - The government imposed a fl dog tax which the people of Bindelzwarts strongly resisted. A force of 400 policemen armed with rifle, ston guns and machine guns, and accompanied by the two bomber planes were sent to crush the resistance. Over 100 men, women and children were killed. An undisclosed number was wounded.

PORT ELIZABETH, OCTOBER 1920: Masabalala, an articulate leader of the Industrial and Commercial workers Union was arrested by police. 21 Blacks were killed when several men and women marched to the police station to demand the release of their leader. The wounded were reportedly left to lie unattended until taken by their friends to hospital.

BLOEMFONTEIN APRIL 1925 After a beer raid in which 1 Black was killed by the police, the inhabitants demolished the police station and occupied the township for a few days. Police reinforced with armed white civilians made a concerted attack on the township killing 5 people and wounding 24 others. A commission report later stated that "There is no doubt that the firing was begun by the irresponsible armed civilians who were present. We are afraid that the conclusionis justified by the evidence that the object was rather to 'get at' the Native and punish him than to protect the town"

DURBAN, JUNE 1929 Two men were killed after Blacks repulsed an irate white white mob that tried to storm the ICU offices in Prince Edward Street. On hearing the news Black dockworkers marched to the ICU offices. Police intervened and in the police fire 6 blacks lost their lives.

DURBAN JUNE 1936 : This was the day marked for the take-over of the policing of Durban by the S.A.P. from the City police. Blacks resisted this as they have learned of the reputation of the S.A.P. on the Rand where Black people were being mishandled and put in 'pick up vans'. Police baton charged the crowd that had lined up the street. Colonel Whittet, in charge of 'operators' f... shots wounding 2 employees of the Durban Corporation working in the beer hall.



ZEEERUST, 1957 - 1959: During the Easter Week-End of 1957 Black people gathered at the Chiefs' Kraal in the village of Zeerust to protest against the introduction of the Women's pass. Passes were collected and burned in front of the Bantu Affairs Commissioner, Mr. Rechter. In the march that followed police opened fire and countless Blacks were injured and killed. Due to this incident the chief of Dinokana village, Ramotshere Moilwa was forced to flee to Botswana. The government closed all schools, postal services and to a lesser extent transport services. No one was allowed to enter the village without written permission from the Bantu Affairs Commissioner. Thus for three years there was neither education nor post in Dinokana. Schools were only opened in October 1960.

THE 1950-1952 CAMPAIGNS: The African National Congress organised campaigns against "legislation that continues to insult and degrade the African people" In the incident that followed 18 Blacks were killed. The ANC intensified its efforts and in 1952 the protest continued despite threats from the Prime Minister. Blacks were arrested and they refused to pay fines and preferred to serve prison sentences.

PRETORIA, DECEMBER 1942

About 2 000 Black workers employed by the Pretoria Municipality protested against low wages. Police and soldiers were called when a meeting with the Superintendent in the Compound ended in dissatisfaction. One soldier was killed. The military then opened fire despite the fact that Blacks were trapped in a yard and were trying to escape through a narrow exit. 14 Blacks were killed and 111 were injured.

RAND, 1946 : About 50 000 of the reefs 300 000 Black miners went on strike. The strike affected 32 of the Rand's 45 mines. Police were used to force miners to go to work. At the Nigel Mine, police fired and wounded six miners. A further six died in the stampede. Five miners were shot dead by the police in a subsequent miners demonstration.

SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE 21ST MARCH 1960

The pass laws are the most degrading and vicious laws ever promulgated. They are a well formulated strategy at making the black man sub-human in his own fatherland.

The Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) under the leadership of Mangaliso 'Prof' Sobukwe, called upon all Black people to leave their passes at home and surrender themselves to the nearest police station for not having passes on them. STRICT INSTRUCTIONS WERE given that should the police refuse to arrest them, they should go home and return again in the afternoon. If they should be arrested they should not seek legal defence nor ask for bail or pay fines but go to jail. Upon returning after serving prison sentences, they should once more surrender themselves to the police station and get arrested.

MANGALISO SOBUKWE led a group of his followers to the Orlando police station in Soweto and offered themselves for arrest, for refusing to carry the despised and dehumanising pass. This was on the morning of March 21, 1960.

In response, to the PAC call, 9000 people and converged on the municipal offices of Sharpeville, near Vereeniging. The town of Vereeniging was completely without servants according to the 'Star' of that afternoon.

Teargas failed up, desperse the crowd and police baton charge temporarily dispersed it. The crowd regrouped outside the police station. By this time the crowd had swalled to 20 000. Mr. Nyakane Tsolo, a PAC leader, explained to the police that they had no reference books and demanded to be arrested. According to a commission report the crowd was not hostile nor did it carry sticks.

At 12,45p.m. police reinforcements arrived with Lt. Pienaar in charge of the Sharpeville police station. Police forced their way through the crowd with sacacens. Tension increased as a result of the police action.

At 1.15 p.m. further reinforcements arrived. 130 white policemen and 77 bantu constables arrived in the yard. In the vicinity there were 29 white and 29 bantu policemen.

Captain Crouse arrived with 13 white and 6 bantu policemen together with a mobilised skietkommando. He instructed his men to load their rifles.

At 1.35 p.m. Maj. Van Zyl, district commander of police showed the crowd by opening his hand that he was giving them five minutes to disperse or face bullets.

At 1.40 p.m. police started shooting. 75 members of the police fired 700 shots with sten guns and .303 rifles killing 69 blacks and injuring 300 others (40 of whom were women and 8 children below 14 years of age.

30 shots entered the bodies from the front.

175 shots entered the bodies from the back

5 Baragwanath wards were converted into 'detention cells'

137 wounded victims were kept under heavy police guard in this wards

The then Minister of Justice introduced an in INDEMINITY BILL thus making it impossible for people to sue the police.

Mr.Erusmus (the minister of justice) said:

"There was once a time when we could shoot as many people as we could and and the world ddd not seem to care"

He cited the Bulhoek murdres in 1921 were 163 blacks were killed and 129 injured.

#### OTHER AREAS

#### VANDERBYJLPARK

Bophelong and Boipatong servants not turning up for work. 4000 went to the police station to surrender. Air Force sabre jets flew over the crowds. Skietcommandos were on the scene and white were generally asking to be signed on; 20 whites threatened to take action, but were stopped by the officer in charge. Teargas failed to desperse the crowd, but when the cops baton-charged, the crowd dispersed. One Black was shot dead.



NYANGA AND LANGA

1 200 at Phillip Police station and a few hundreds at Nyanga. Phillip Kgosana dispersed the crowd to convene that evening. The magistrate banned all meetings. At New Flats a crowd of 10 000 marching to the centre of town were stopped by police who fired from saracens, killing 2 people and injuring 49. On the 23rd of March, 100 people surrendered for arrest but police refused to arrest them. The central police, however, arrested them and kept them in custody for 3 days.

On the 25th March, Kgosana lead 2 000 to Caledon Square. He and a companion got arrested but later released to disperse the crowd. March the 28th more than 50 000 blacks stayed away from work to bury their dead. This stayaway lasted over a week. On March the 30th, 30 000 people marched to Caledon Square to demand the release of their leaders. Kgosana is asked to disperse the crowd. He does and h than gets detained. Women gather around parliament. Hundreds of women march to Langa police station and are dispersed by teargas. A baby is 'accidentally' shot by a naval guard in Nyanga. The two townships are under siege from 30th March to 8th April.

EVIL FOR:

10 000 gather at the police station. Police refuse to arrest them. They were dispersed by military aircraft diving low over their heads.

CATOR MANOR:

22 police raid for illicit liquor. 32 blacks are arrested. 3 police escort them away. A police treads on a woman who hurls abuse at him. 4 whites and 5 blacks police killed. 1 black shot dead, 27 charged with murder and 3 injured.

Chief Albert Lutuli, ANC President, burns his pass. He was charged and fined £100.

DAY OF MOURNING 28TH MARCH 1960

Chief Lutuli called on Africans to observe this day as a day of mourning and stay at home. The PAC leadership supported him by calling on their members to do so.

RESPONSE:

CAPE TOWN	95%	of the Black workforce stayed at home
Johannesburg	Between 80 - 90%	stayed at home
PORT ELIZABETH	85%	95% stayed at home.
PIETERMARITZBURG	Fair	response
DURBAN	20% - 25%	
Indian businesses closed for the day.		

JOHANNESBURG:

Rioting and assault on diseters returning from work. A police constable is killed. 4 Meadowlands offices are burned and a church in Dube.

STELLENBOSCH:

Large crowd marched into town - stopped by police baton-charge. Administration buildings, churches and houses of police burned. Several arrested.

WORCESTER

6 churches, 18 schools and the civic centre burned down, Coloureds join Africans during stayaway.

SOMERSET WEST:

March into town stopped by police.

SIMONSTOWN:

31st March, 1 000 march into square in the centre of town. They return after discussion with NEAD manager. Church destroyed by fire.

HERMANUS

1st April - 400 march into town, Police with skietkommando fails to disperse the crowd. Baton-charge sets them on flight.

PAARL

2nd April several hundreds gather outside magistrates court and publicly burn a bag full of passes. school destroyed.

A school was burned down at NUIZENBURG and at BEREA ROAD 3 blacks were shot dead. According to an inquest the firing was justified.

CATO MAJOR

On the 30th March 5 000 demand the release of their leaders. A meeting with the chief magistrate ends in uproar.

On the 1st of April 1000 managed to reach jail were their leaders were kept. They were given five minutes to disperse or face bullets.

Clash with police at CLAREMONT resulted in several police being hurt. One black was killed and 9 injured.

LAMONTVILLE

4th - 5th April one shot dead, 13 hurt. At the S.J. Smith hostel 300 arrested.

PIETERMARITZBURG: B.A.D. offices set on fire.

GEPMISTON : One black constable and 3 white police injured, one injured from police fire.

PORT ELIZABETH : Warner and Veesplaas - reference books and schools burned.

EAST LONDON AND CRADOCK : Church and schools destroyed.

BEAUFORT WEST : Coloured school burned down.

ERMELO: Beerhall destroyed : 84 blacks shot dead  
265 injured  
3 bantu constables killed  
33 whites injured  
25 constable injured

BIZANA - 2 members of the tribal authority are attacked and beaten up by riots. 2 sacacen armoured vehicles, 4 riot wagons and at 40 police some armed with sten guns patrolled the village.

30TH MARCH 1960

State of emergency declared under Proclamation 90 & 91 in 123 district. 20 000 detained. George Siwisa of PAC and John Kamanga of the Malawi National Congress died in Cinderella Prison in Boksburg while in detention.

Children's Protest - 20 children of detainees protested in front of the Johannesburg City Hall. They were all detained by the police for one hour. Children under 10 years were loaded in a pick-up van.

Other incidents - Bashee River - 5 whites killed, 23 blacks hanged  
Queenstown Station Riots - Bonakele Ngongolo and Notimba Mbolo sentenced to death.

Port Elizabeth - 4 white killed by blacks, 9 blacks hanged.

Kimberley Beerhall riots - 13 shot dead, 78 wounded.

East London - 2 whites killed, 6 blacks shot dead

31ST MARCH 1960

Hundreds of heavily armed troops threw tight cordons around the Langa, Nyanga townships under cover of dark the previous night acting under emergency Regulations proclaimed the previous day.

CAPE PENINSULA 4TH APRIL 1960

Police armed with treacherous swooped on all suburbs and town in the of PenINSULA to clear the streets of "intimidations" & loiters. They clubbed and beat any "Native who cannot account for themselves in the city streets and other areas where they might cause trouble"

They were acting on amendments to the emergency regulations. The amendments gave police and troops to use force - including force resulting in death to remove or prevent suspected dangers. "Our aim is not to arrest but to deal with trouble makers on the spot" Col. Smith the District Commissioner said.

March 21st, 1960 shall go down into the annals of history as one of the most tragic events where unarmed black men, women and children dare the might of the saracens in order to reiterate their desire to be treated like human beings - to regain their human dignity, human valour and national consciousness. They had to pay with their dear lives in order to fulfil their national aspirations.

However today, we don't only remember those brave sons and daughters of Sharpeville, Nyanga, Gugulethu, Cato Manor etc. But we also remember those Patriots of Azania who have laid down their lives fighting and defending their fatherland from Colonialism, imperialism and capitalism. - Shaka, Moshoeshe, Makana, Ndlambe, Sekhukhuni.  
Let us also remember the banished and banned of this country.  
FORWARD WITH THE PEOPLE' STRUGGLE!



To fight the odds against us we need the courage to face the challenges. We must be aware at all times that there is a deliberate consistent effort to keep us in the chains of oppression. Despite all form of intimidation and harassment we will doggedly go on with our efforts to thrust of the shackles of oppression. We are on the threshold of a new era, in the struggle for liberation no outside "redeemer" can save us. Our destiny lies in our own hands, Black man you are on your own

#### DEATH IN DETENTION

- STEVE BANTU BIKO : Died on September 12th 1977, of brain injuries caused by blows to the head. "Steve Biko neither wanted nor even expected martyrdom. He became a martyr none the less; one who bore witness, both through his life and through his death to the faith and love that were in him"
- MAPETLA MOHAPI : Said to have hanged himself with his trousers in his cell at the Kei Road police station on August 5th 1976
- JOSEPH MDLULI : Died in March 1976 as a result of falling over a chair. Photographs of his body showed obvious signs of battery.
- LUKE MAZWEMBE : Alleged to have hanged himself with strips of blankets on September 2nd, 1976
- DUMISANI MBATHA : Died in September 1976
- WELLINGTON TSHAZIBANE: Died on December 11th 1976 "with him was found a statement in which he cleared the police of all blame and admitted suicide" Unfortunately we do not have a copy of this generous admission.
- GEORGE BOTHA : Died five days after his detention in December 1976 as a result of "jumping" down a stairwell.
- DR. NABOATH NTSHUNTSHA: Died in October 1976.
- MATHEWS MABELANE : "Fell" accidentally to his death from the tenth floor of John Voster Square on February 25 1977.
- ELMON MALELE : Died on January 20th, 1977.
- AARON KHOZA : Died on March 26th, 1977 "was found hanging with a jacket fastened around his neck and to a window bar with shoe laces"
- PHAKAMILE MABIJA : "Fell to his death from the sixth floor of the Kimberley police station on July 7th 1977.



- DR. HOOSSEN HAPPERJE: Died in Durban on 3rd August 1977, His trousers were tightly wound around his neck that they had to be cut with a razor blade.
- SOLWANDILE "LOOKSMART" NGUDLE: Died on 5th September 1963. Inquest verdict; suicide, with no blame attached to anyone. No finding on allegations of assault.
- BELLINGTON MAMPE : Died 1st September, 1963 - 140 days after his Detention, causes of death Unknown
- SULIMAN "BABLA" SALOOJEE : Died 9th September, 1964 after falling seven floors from the window in police Headquarters.
- JAMES TYITO : Detained 19th October, allegedly found hanged by his scarf. Date unknown.
- NGENI GAGA Died 9th May, 1965. Inquest verdict: "natural causes"
- PONGOLOSHE HOYE : Detained 8th May, 1965. Died the following year of "natural causes"
- JAMES HAMAKWAYO : Detained 26th August, 1966. Date of death unknown.
- HANGULA SHONYEKA : Died 9th October, 1966. six weeks after his detention suicide.
- LEONG YUM PIN : Died 19th November, 1966 three days after his detention. "suicide"
- AH YAN : Died 5th January, 1967. approximately two months after his detention. "suicide"
- ALPHEUS MADIBA Died 9th September, 1967. Allegedly hanged himself.
- J.B. TUBAKWE Died 11th September 1968. The day after his detention . "Found hanged"
- NICODIMUS KGOATHE : Died 2nd February 1970. after having been in custody for 15 months. Inquest verdict "natural causes"
- SOLOMON MODIPANE : Died 25th February, 1970. no inquest held. Alleged "natural causes"
- JAMES LENKOE Died 10th March, 1970. five days after his detention. Evidence led of trace of copper in the wound on his toe. Inquest verdict suicide.
- IMAM ABDULLAH HAROUN Died 27th September, 1970. Inquest:- died on injuries sustained when falling down a flight of stairs.
- MTHAYENI CUTSHELA : Detained 21st December, 1970. Died about a month later. "natural causes"
- CALEB MAYEKISO Detained immediately on release from Robben Island died 13th May, 1971. Eighteen days later.

MICHAEL SHIVUTE : Died 16th June, 1971 on the night of his detention. Alleged suicide.

JACOB MONNAGOTLA: Died the night before his trial began.

AHMED TIMOL : Fell from the ninth floor of John Vorster Security Headquarters.

WILLIAM TSHAWANE died on the 25 June 1976 of "gunshot wounds inflicted by the police and his family was not told until October 4, 1976

FENEEL MAGATUSTI : Died of an "epileptic fit" but his family said he had never been an epileptic

JACOB MASHABANE : A student died on October 5th 1976.

EDWARD MZOLO Died of undisclosed causes

ERNEST "CHIEF MAMASHILE: Died 18th November 1976 two days after his detention

PARIS MALATSI : Was shot through the forehead whilst in detention by an S.B. in 1983.

An undisclosed date an unidentified detainee died of undisclosed causes at an undisclosed place, information was given to Parliament only on 28th January 1969.

THABO MOSALA died of 'natural causes' on the 21 November 1976.

TWALIMPENE JOYI: died of undisclosed causes on an undisclosed date.

LAWRENCE NDZANGA: Died of natural causes on the same date Dr Ntshuntsha.

SAMUEL MALINGA died of natural causes on February 22, 1977.

ELIJAH LOZA: died of natural causes on August 2, 1977

LUNGIE TABALAZA died on July 10, 1978-

Saul SIDZUMO: died of natural causes on September 8, 1980.

TSHIPIWE MUOHFHE: Died in Venda on November 12, 1981.

DR. NEIL AGGETT died at John Vorster on February 2, 1982.

ERNEST DIPALE: died on August 8, 1982.

SIMON MINDAWE was found hanging in his cell on March 8, 1983.

SAMUEL TSHIKUDO: died in a Venda prison on January 20 this year.

The list is far from being exhausted. There are still many more who will die

WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO REFUSED TO LIVE AND DIE ON THEIR KNEES.

ON HEROES DAY WE PLEDGE THE RESISTANCE WAY.



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