Violence Threatens Constitutional Negotiations

Long awaited constitutional talks which began at the first meeting of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) in December are threatened by increasing violence throughout the country. Many South Africans are questioning the effectiveness of the National Peace Accord which was signed by CODESA participants before the start of Constitutional talks. Few of the Accord structures have been established at regional or local levels. Leaders from all sides who were key to the Accord process are now absorbed in CODESA constitutional negotiations.

The regime of F.W. DeKlerk is responsible for much of the violence. In the two years since Nelson Mandela walked out of prison the security forces have directly killed at least 421 people and injured over 4,000 according to statistics from the Human Rights Commission. Hit squads have killed many more. In January 1992, the Johannesburg Weekly Mail produced army documents detailing the military's efforts to establish, finance and run covert hit squads that targeted local leaders and organizations sympathetic to the ANC. One report to the army General Staff set out how "cultural organizations" were used to "create conflict" between the ANC and other black groups. According to the Human Rights Commission, black vigilante gangs have accounted for an estimated 5,471 deaths since the middle of 1990. The Commission reports 53 assassinations of political organizers in 1991. The government has never fully investigated the hit squads and the department that ran the hit squads was still listed as receiving funds in the 1991 budget document.

The South African government has admitted to funding the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the Weekly Mail continues to uncover the depths of this collusion including the South African Defense Force training of IFP hit squads. It should also be noted that the Bush administration has sent more than two million U.S. tax dollars to Inkatha for their supposed development (continued on page 2)

Mary Ntingane’s son is missing

Mvula Arthur Ntingane, son of ACO leader Mary Nzingane, has been missing since January 13th, 1992. He was last seen riding his bicycle home from work. His family and friends have searched for him everywhere, including the mortuaries, jails and hospitals, the forest and rivers in the surrounding area but to no avail. His disappearance has been reported to area police who have done nothing thus far. His employer has paid for an ad in local papers seeking information about his disappearance. His family suspects that he may have been a victim of a hit squad or the security police but they have no proof.

Many friends of the Chicago-Alexandra Sister Community Project met Mary Nzingane when she visited Chicago last summer. Mary is the Assistant General Secretary of the Alexandra Civic Organization, Chicago’s sister community in South Africa. She suffered detention in solitary confinement for over a year by the South African police and spent three years in hiding during her many years of anti-apartheid activities. She is currently a key leader of the ACO, participating in the implementation of the historical Alexandra Accord and other community development projects in Alex.

Mary and her family have asked our help in pressuring the South African police to investigate the Nzingane disappearance. We are recommending calls be made to the Wynberg Transvaal Police Station 011-27-11-440-4874 (enquiries) to ask for the status of the case (file #51 reported on January 17, 1992). Mary has also asked for financial assistance for more newspaper ads and for legal assistance. The (continued on page 2)
Hit Squads Target Moses Mayekiso

The Intelligence Department of the Coalition of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) has concluded that union and civic leader Moses Mayekiso has been targeted by hit squads. Mayekiso is the President of the Alexandria Civic Organization, Chicago's sister community in South Africa. COSATU's investigation discovered that Mayekiso has been the subject of sustained surveillance in the past three months. He has been constantly followed and has received repeated threatening phone calls.

Jay Naidoo, General Secretary of COSATU threatened unprecedented industrial action if hit squad intimidation aimed at its leaders continues. In addition to making these allegations public in a press conference, Naidoo briefed police on its investigation.

Mary Ntingane...

Chicago Alexander Sister Community Project and other local supporters have sent some funds, asked Amnesty International to look into the matter and made arrangements for Mary to be interviewed live on WVON on February 14th. Contributions may be sent to Mary through CCISSA and the Sister Community Project. Make checks out to CCISSA and send them to 343 S. Dearborn, #316, Chicago, IL 60604.

Violence...

(continued from page 1)

ment as a democratic free market advocate in South Africa. It seems that the funding represents a continuation of Bush administration "low intensity conflict" strategy which has been used to effect change in Central America, Angola, Mozambique and other countries.

In Alexandra Township, Chicago's sister community in South Africa, residents continue to suffer violent attacks by members of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). The IFP continues to harass residents close to the men's hostels, extorting money and goods from them, conscripting them to Inkatha and forcibly removing them from their homes if they refuse to cooperate. Local police seem to have sympathies if not outright collusion with the IFP. Police routinely deny the political nature of the attacks in spite of attackers wearing IFP t-shirts. The police falsely blame community residents for withholding critical information which would lead to arrests.

The national scope of this police complicity in the violence is reflected in statistics recently reported in The New Nation. Of 48 train attacks, 115 people killed and 570 injured in train massacres since September 1990, not one conviction has been made in spite of "major breakthroughs" and "special investigations."

Although the violence has primarily affected Black communities in South Africa, the image of mindless wholesale tribal violence is erroneous. Random terrorist attacks on railway stations and calculated hits against individual community activists have no tribal basis whatsoever. They are rather orchestrated political attacks designed to destabilize the anti-apartheid movement and to terrorize all South Africans in order to slow or stop negotiations for majority rule. F.W. DeKlerk's surprise announcement of an immediate white referendum on the constitutional negotiations is an indication of how successful this terrorist destabilization campaign has been.

ACTION ALERT

Here's what you can do to help stop the political violence in South Africa.

Demand that Pretoria end the violence by flooding the apartheid ambassador in Washington with calls, faxes and letters:

Ambassador Harry Schwarz
Embassy of South Africa
3051 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
(202) 232-4400

Write to demand the U.S. stop funding the Inkatha Freedom Party.

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

De Paul Faculty and Students Visit ALEX

At the February meeting of the Sister Community Project, DePaul University Professors Jim Halsted and Jim Block reported on the visit of 14 faculty and 10 staff to Alexandra Township during their December tour of Southern Africa. The DePaul delegation was struck by the sharp contrast between the living conditions in Alex and those of the adjacent white suburbs. They were shocked by the unspeakable poverty of Alex and by the realization of apartheid's conscious intention to keep the population of Alex isolated and deprived. The DePaul delegation was inspired by the dedication of ACO members and have committed themselves to working with the Chicago Alexander Sister Community Project to provide educational resources to the ACO. Possible projects include donation of books for a community library and training for high school and adult education teachers in Alexandra Township.

Thanks to RESIST

The Chicago Alexander Sister Community Project has received a $500.00 grant from the RESIST fund of Somerville, Mass for the production of the Project's recently published brochure. CCISSA and the Project are grateful for the continued support of RESIST over many years of our anti-apartheid campaign in Illinois.
1992 Soweto Day Walkathon to Benefit Women of Southern Africa

CCISSA and Church World Service will join forces once again this year to sponsor the Soweto Day Walkathon. Through this year's Walk, we will express support for the women of Southern Africa in their struggle to overcome the oppressive everyday effects of apartheid on their lives and the lives of their families. In spite of political gains on the national level, the lives of the people of Southern Africa continue to be devastated by apartheid's policies and systems of deprivation, underdevelopment and aggression against South Africa's majority population as well as its neighboring countries. Half of the Walk proceeds will be sent to the Christian Council of Mozambique for their programs with refugees, the majority of whom are women and children who have been displaced by the South African backed war of destabilization throughout Mozambique.

This year the 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) Walk will take place on Saturday, June 13, with registration beginning at 9:00 AM and stepoff at 10:00 AM. The Walk will begin and end once again at Malcolm X College, however, the route will be changed somewhat to highlight the work of women on Chicago's West side. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on June 13th. We would also welcome your participation on the Walkathon planning committee. Call Joan at 312-421-5513 for the date and time of the next meeting.

Davis and Schiller Lead Consulate Protest

On December 10, 1991, International Human Rights Day, Sister Community Project supporters protested at the South African Consulate in Chicago. The delegation was lead by Cook Co. Commissioner Danny Davis and Alderman Helen Shier and CCISSA Chairperson Basil Clunie who met with South African Consul Eric Broekhysen. The delegation delivered petitions signed by over 1500 people concerned with the continued violence in Alexandra Township. They also asked for information about the investigation into the murder of ACO member Makohsi Jama and expressed outrage about the South African government's secret funding of the Inkatha Freedom Party which has been responsible for disruption of ACO's activities and events. ACO sources suspect that Inkatha was behind the November murder of Jama outside the ACO offices in Alexandra Township.

The Human Rights Day protest is part of the Sister Community Project's ongoing dialogue with the Consulate about conditions in Alexandra Township. Another visit to the Consulate is planned for late March in commemoration of the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre.

Cudahy Grants $10,000 for ACO Media Center

The Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund has granted $10,000 to the Alexandra Civic Organization for their Communication Center in Alexandra Township. This action came about after months of work by the CASCP Media Committee. The ACO plans to develop a community newspaper to facilitate their work in Alex. The Media Committee continues to seek funding and technical assistance for the Center. The Committee is also working on dissemination of news about Southern Africa and Alexandra Township to local news media and activists.

Over 300 Chicagoans joined in the Martin Luther King Day Sing Out Against Apartheid at the South African Consulate. The Sing Out was sponsored by Synapses and other Chicago anti-apartheid groups.
Anti-Apartheid Calendar

MARCH 6-8 "ABOLISHING APARTHEID/ ENDING RACISM: The Struggle for Justice in Southern Africa and the U.S.", Wayne State University, Detroit MI. Sponsored by the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights. For more information call (313) 831-0258.

MARCH 13-14 "SOUTHERN AFRICA: ENVISIONING THE FUTURE" Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago. Sponsored by the New Southern Africa Network of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. For information call: 312-380-2587.

MARCH 12 SANCC (SOUTHERN AFRICA NETWORK OF CHICAGO CHURCHES) 12 noon, AFSC Office, 59 E. Van Buren, Chicago 14th Floor. (regular meeting on the second Tuesday of each month).

MARCH 15 SISTER COMMUNITY PROJECT MEETING 6:00 P.M. 1st Church of the Brethren, 425 Central Park, Chicago. (regular meeting on the second Sunday of each month).

MARCH 23 SISTER COMMUNITY PROJECT ACTION AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSULATE 12:00 NOON 200 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago. For information call Joan at 312-421-5513.

MARCH 31 CANDLELIGHT VIGIL - Strike a light for peaceful change in South Africa 4-5:30 P.M. South African Consulate, 200 S. Michigan, Chicago. For more information call 312-421-5513.

APRIL 12 SISTER COMMUNITY PROJECT MEETING 6:00 P.M. 1st Church of the Brethren, 425 Central Park, Chicago.

APRIL 10 SANCC MEETING 12 Noon, AFSC Office, 59 E. Van Buren, Chicago, 14th Floor.

MAY 2 CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE, DePaul University For more information call CWS 708-953-2767.

JUNE 13 SOWETO DAY WALKATHON TO BENEFIT WOMEN OF SOUTHERN AFRICA Registration 9 AM, Step-off 10 AM Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren, Chicago. For information call 312-421-5513.

SUPPORT CCISSA AND THE ALEXANDRA CIVIC ORGANIZATION

You can support the work of CCISSA, the Chicago-Alexandra Sister Community Project and Chicago's sister community in South Africa, the Alexandra Civic Organization by joining CCISSA. We would welcome you to the Amandla Club with a contribution of $100.00 or more per year. With a contribution of $25.00 or more, you can become a member of both CCISSA and the Alexandra Civic Organization and receive an ACO membership card. A $10.00 CCISSA membership contribution will keep you on the CCISSA mailing list and help support our 1992 anti-apartheid campaign. A portion each contribution will be sent directly to the ACO. Please show your support by sending your contribution today.

Please return to CCISSA, 343 S. Dearborn, #316, Chicago, IL 60604.

Name

Phone

Address

Zip

Enclosed is my check for:

$100.00 or more, Amandla Club Membership

$25.00, CCISSA & ACO Membership

$10.00, CCISSA Membership

Additional Contribution

I would like to get involved in the Sister Community Project:

- General
- Media Committee
- Housing Committee
- Education Committee
- Health Committee

I would like to support the Soweto Day Walkathon:

- I will work on the Walkathon Committee
- I will work on the Walkathon Committee
- Send me a pledge form
- Enclosed is my Walkathon contribution

Enclosed is my Walkathon contribution