

3

# SAM NUJOMA Namibia's Guerrillas face death Under the banner of SWAPO

The illegal trial of SWAPO Freedom Fighters currently taking place in the Supreme Court, Pretoria, South Africa, is a clear indication that the Vorster racist regime rules Namibia (South West Africa) with brute force and absolutely denies the African people of Namibia the fundamental human rights.

The South West African Police and Army have embarked upon a campaign of terror against the entire African population, unwarrantedly seized SWAPO leaders, members and civilians, transported them by military planes from the Northern, Central and Coastal regions in Namibia to a foreign country (South Africa) where they are being detained under the "Suppression of Communism Act" which was extended to our country in 1966. Among those arrested are prominent SWAPO leaders; Messrs. Nathaniel Maxullu, Acting President; John Otto, Acting Secretary General; Jason Mutumbulua, Secretary for Foreign Affairs; and Tolvo ja Tolvo, Regional Secretary in the North; and two teachers who were seized by the Police from their classrooms in a typical Nazi-fashion at Onguendiva in Ovamboland.

In July 1967, Mr. Aaron Mamutenja was seized by the Police from his home in Windhoek and taken to an unknown destination, leaving his wife and three children without any means of livelihood.

While the neo-Nazi regime of Vorster detains our people in Pretoria, the all-White South African Parliament rushed through a vicious Bill known as the "Anti-Terrorism Bill". This repressive piece of legislation was introduced in Parliament on 1st June, passed on 6th and gazetted on 21st June, 1967. In our view, this Act was deliberately rushed through Parliament in order to empower the South African Minister of Justice to impose death sentences on the SWAPO members now standing trial in Pretoria.

The "Terrorism Act" gives power to the Police to arrest and detain indefinitely any person as stipulated in Section 2(1) (a): "Who with intent to endanger the maintenance of law and order in the Republic or elsewhere commits any act or attempts to commit, or conspires with any other person to aid or procure the commission of or to commit, or incites, instigates, commands, aids, advises, encourages, or procures any other person to commit any act; or (b) in the Republic or elsewhere undergoes, or attempts, consents or takes any steps to undergo, or incites,

instigates, commands, aids, advises, encourages, or procures any other person to undergo any training which could be of use to any person intending to endanger the maintenance of law and order, and who fails to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he did not undergo or attempt, consent or take any steps to undergo or incite, instigate, command, aid, advise, encourage, or procure such other person to undergo such training for the purpose of using it or causing it to be used to commit any act likely to have any of the results referred to in subsection (2) in the Republic or any portion thereof; or (c) possesses any explosives, ammunition, firearms or weapons and who fails to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he did not intend using such explosives, ammunition, firearms or weapon to commit any act likely to have any of the results referred to in subsection (2) in the Republic or any portion thereof, shall be guilty of the offence of participation in terroristic activities and liable on conviction to the penalties provided for by law for the offence of treason; Provided that, except where the penalty is imposed, the imposition of a sentence of imprisonment for a period of not less than five years shall be compulsory, whether or not any other penalty is also imposed".

However, it should be pointed out that the "Terrorism Act" is also the most barbaric law ever passed in a civilised Parliament. It is a well-calculated policy aimed at the destruction of SWAPO and at completing the elimination of nationalist activities and the enslavement of the people of Namibia.

It is significant that Police brutality and ruthlessness by means of torture and beatings have already resulted in the death of SWAPO detainees. In early September a report reached us stating that the first SWAPO detainee died in Pretoria - he had been captured on the battlefield, thrown into prison, where he died in his cell: he is believed to have suffered a bullet wound in his neck. However, the Pretoria racist regime refused to announce the circumstances under which he died, and his name was not disclosed. On 12th October 1967, Mr. Ephraim Kaporo, one of the 37 accused now standing trial under the "Terrorism Act" in Pretoria, was tortured to death by the South African Police. During the past years we have noted a growing Nazi-like Police state in South Africa while at the same time South Africa has extended her policy of piracy and white supremacy beyond her borders. Today the South African troops are fighting in Rhodesia, Angola and Mozambique, with a view to maintaining the minority white regimes in power there and to suppressing the nationalist movement in southern Africa.

The South West Africa Peoples Organisation calls upon all democratic governments, organisations and individuals to join us in demanding the unconditional release of all Namibians illegally detained and now being tried by the fascist regime of Vorster and to condemn the South African Government's act of aggression and atrocities committed against our people.

Even though we are fighting against the formidable forces of the South African aggressors who are armed with the most modern weapons, the people of Namibia, under the banner of SWAPO, will carry out the liberation struggle and overthrow the forces of the South African colonialism and achieve freedom and independence