

CIVIL



RIGHTS



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News Letter

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MORNINGS

CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Brian Bishop has resigned as Chairman of the C.R.L., due to pressure of business negotiations. He has agreed to remain on the committee as one of the two vice-chairmen, conditional upon having leave of absence for several months. Keith Gottschalk was elected in his place.

The day-to-day business of the chairman is outlined in the section of this newsletter covering committee member's portfolios. Here, I want to ask hard questions about the long-term future of the League.

The Civil Rights League is now thirty-six years old. What are our plans for the next thirty-six years? What direction should the League take, what strategies should it attempt, while it approaches its 50th anniversary, now only fourteen years away?.

In totalitarian states Human Rights groups concentrate on circulating samizdat publicising state violations of people's freedom. In democratic countries, Human Rights groups operate mainly through legal suits and press statements. In South Africa, Lawyers for Human Rights, ...

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Detainees Parents Support Groups, Conscientious Objector Support Groups and similar ad hoc standing committees recently arose to fill a growing need.

Committee members participate to varying extents with some of these organisations. Clearly, we need to build up a working relationship with them, avoiding duplication of effort, co-ordinating our activities to complement each other where appropriate. What suggestions can members make on these developments?

I wish to pay tribute to the veterans of the C.R.L., who continue to shoulder the burden of committee duties, often in the face of ill-health, at an age when most persons are enjoying a richly-deserved retirement.

At the same time, this a reproach to the young and middle-aged members, who have not stepped forward to fulfill their responsibilities to the League, to fulfill their duty to defend civil liberties.

How can existing members be encouraged to become more active in League's running, and new members attracted? I propose that the League's newsletter should be the vital link keeping members in touch with what the League's executive is attempting, and its activities. Simultaneously, feedback from members will facilitate gauging member's opinions.

Could members in the same town at least meet informally, socially and build up a working relationship with their local Black Sash, or other like-minded organisations? Would it be worth while attempting revive branches in at least Johannesburg and Durban?

Let us have your opinions on this.

KEITH GOTTSCHALK, Chairman

COMMITTEE PORTFOLIOS

CHAIRMAN: The chairman wrote to newspapers in the main towns on various matters. First, expressing the League's endorsement of the strong editorial and legal protests against the secret detention for six years of 146 persons at Mariental in Namibia; against the Government's proscribing the Supreme Court from hearing their habeas corpus application, and calling for their release forthwith.

Second, the payment of damages of R315 millions in compensation to U.S. Vietnam war veterans accidentally exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange-dioxin must raise similar questions about the SADF's use, twice, of defoliants in northern Namibia.

Third, the campaign of assassination by parcel bomb of government opponents in exile.

Fourth, the increase in authoritarianism, forced removals and revocation of citizenship since the Republic was inaugurated.

DETENTION AND BANNING:

1. MURDER The shocking murder by book bomb of Jenny and Katryn Schoon on 28th June was terrible news for those who knew Jenny* and her brother, Neville Curtis (one-time NUSAS President). We sent a message of deep sympathy to their parents in Johannesburg. *(ex-banned & detained)
2. CRADDOCK Life in Lingelihle township is tense and fearful, reported Di Bishop, MPC, following police action over rent protests. Four leading residents, Mr Matthew Calata and Madoda Jacob (headboy at the Lingelihle High School) were held under Internal security Act on 31st March. Two are at Pollsmoor and two at Diepkloof, Tvl., in preventative detention indefinitely. Of the scores detained (many very young), 94 are to be charged, 60 being still in custody and 34 out on bail. Schools are boycotted and a total ban on meetings is in force. Opinion in the community is that only the release of the 4 leaders will restore calm.
3. GRAAFF-REINET Minister le Grange stated in Parliament that 38 people (again including children) were detained in Graaff-Reinet at an unlawful gathering on 16th June. He said these were among some "69 or 70" held under sec. 29 of the Internal Security Act as at 6th July, and had been detained during the month from 28th May. He stated that 5 police were injured by stone-throwing, and that police opened fire and wounded 5 people. Teargas, batons and rubber bullets were also used.
4. THE "BIKO DOCTORS" - If you wish to contribute to the legal costs about to incurred in this matter, please send a cheque to: AMES/JENKINS/
TOBIAS ACCOUNT at the Standard Bank, Box 17085, /be

Hillbrow, 2030. But please do not send this c/o the League.

GROUPS AREAS AND REMOVALS:

The Cape Metropolitan Guide Plan estimates that the permanent African urban population of the Peninsula in the 2010 will be 470 000. A Cape Times leading article (84/07/03) points out that Khayelitsha is designed to accommodate only 250 000 and queries the necessity for the removal of people in the established townships at Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu.

The meeting noted that the Cape Orange Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of S.A. had condemned the removals as unchristian; also noted was the fact that the first 5 000 houses at Khayelitsha would have no electricity, the streets being lit by enormously high and powerful floodlights.

It was ironic that, since Chinese are now being allowed to live wherever they like irrespective of Group Areas, Kabega Park at Port Elizabeth, where many Chinese live, has now been deproclaimed for the Chinese Group and reproclaimed for white occupation.

The Committee noted with deep concern the demolitions at Brown's Farm near Philippi and resolved to write to the Cape Town City Council expressing appreciation of its concern and action in protesting to the Divisional Council at its action

EDUCATION:

On 14 July the Minister of Internal Affairs announced that an improved pay package long overdue for all South African teachers had been approved by the government but would only be implemented on 1st December.

Members of South African Teachers Association had been threatening to stop all extra-mural teaching if there were no response to their appeal by the end of July. They were still unhappy about the delay of the new-deal.

Mr B. du Plessis recently interviewed by the Argus Education reporter on problems facing his department of Black Education referred to students grievances and said, "Although we reject the establishment of Students Representative Councils as such we are in a process of reviewing the election of Prefects or Pupil Councils and their functions and responsibilities.

Earlier statements made by the Minister had led us to believe that he had agreed to the establishment of S.R.C.'s. We hope he had not already been forced to back-track.

On 15 June a new Provincial Ordinance came into effect and legalized the admission of black pupils to private schools in the Cape on a quota basis. The recent S.A.T.A. congress unanimously condemned this quota system and also deplored the government refusal to allow redundant white schooling facilities to be used black school children.

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On 22 July Cape Times reported that a Comprehensive System of alternative education designed to overcome environmental disadvantages among lower income groups particularly blacks had been proposed by the President's Council Science Committee. This would involve the extensive provision of informal pre-school education plus non-formal employment oriented education for adults.

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