



CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

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R1 000 REWARD

THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE OFFERS R1 000 REWARD FOR INFORMATION WHICH LEADS TO THE FINDING OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LATEST THREE "DISAPPEARADOS"

Tribute

To Di Bishop

League members will recall that when voters classified "Coloured" and "Asian" elected Dr Oscar Wollheim, to the Cape Provincial Council, the Nationalist Government's reaction was to abolish their franchise in 1968.

This compliment to Dr. Wollheim's efficacy has now been exceeded. One of the League's Executive Committee members, Di Bishop, is also an MPC, fearlessly combating state enforcement of racism, and authoritarianism. She and Molly Blackburn probed the police shootings, petrol bombings, and other grave violations of human rights in the Eastern Cape.

The Government has now paid the highest tribute possible to Di Bishop's work on the Cape Provincial Council. It has decreed the abolition of the Provincial Council.

>>> QHAQHAWULI GODOLOZI <<<
President of the Port Elizabeth
Civic Organisation

>>> SIPHO HASHE <<<
Secretary-General of PEBCO

>>> CHAMPION GALELA <<<
Organising Secretary.

The reward is payable for finding these persons, or remains identifiable beyond reasonable doubt as theirs.

The same reward still stands for information leading to the discovery, alive or dead, of SIPHIWO MTHIMKHULU, Congress of South African Students leader, also of Port Elizabeth.

The corpses of the four UDF Eastern Cape leaders who "disappeared" in their bakkie subsequent to the above four have been found, stabbed and burnt: Matthew Goniwe, Ford Calata, Sparrow Mkhonto (with his right hand severed), and Fidelo Khlawuli.

Brian Bishop, CRL Vice-Chair, reported that it was rumoured the three PEBCO leaders had been stopped at a police road-block on 8 May at the entrance to New Brighton. If this was true, there should be witnesses - hence the offer of the reward. (Continued on following page)

Mr. Bishop told a UDF memorial meeting that there should be a judicial commission of enquiry into whether or not state employees were responsible for the assassinations.

He told the CITY PRESS :

"We will not be surprised if the solution to the problem of the missing three PEBCO men also clears up the mystery surrounding Mthinkhulu's disappearance".

The Supreme Court in Port Elizabeth dismissed with costs an application calling on the Police and Minister of Law and Order to produce Mr. Hashe. The Eastern Cape Divisional Commissioner of Police said in a replying affidavit that he had written proof from all police stations under his control that Mr. Hashe had not been arrested or detained in his area.

The League fears that the Police Divisional Commissioner's "written proof" is valueless. A Black Sash deputation by chance discovered a teenager, Norman Kona, inside the Uitenhage police station, manacled to a table, flogged and bleeding.

Yet the police station charge office book had no written entry on his admission to the police station, nor of three other victims of police assault in the same room. (SASH, May 1985, p.25). Repeated court evidence concerning torture or death of detainees testifies that no entries are made in Occurrences Diaries when Security Branch police remove detainees to and from jails or police lock-ups to interrogation rooms.

Military censors for over five years forbade the South African and Namibian press, under threat of imprisonment, from publishing even the existence of Angolan and Namibian POWs in the Mariental detention camp.

These bureaucratic routines have long established the procedure whereby the military, security police or other secret services can make political opponents "disappear" without any official written documentation. They negate the possibility of bringing any successful habeas corpus action as much as the detention

without trial laws.

The League urges all human rights activists to be vigilant in opposing any Brazil-type "Death Squads", or any Argentinization of South Africa, leading to prisoners without names in cells without numbers.

LEAG

V-E DAY MEETING OPPOSES CONSCRIPTION

Sir Richard Luyt, League President, chaired our successful V-E Day meeting on the fortieth anniversary of the defeat of fascism in Europe. He emphasised "There must be vigilance and there must be resolution if democracy and the rule of law are to survive."

Gerald Gordon, QC, spoke on the relevance of the occasion for civil rights in South Africa. Democracy's best defence is a well-informed public. Social justice does not need a conscript army to defend it.

Eric Oettle recalled the Torch Commando campaign and the struggle to defend constitutional and democratic rights.

Crispian Olver of the End Conscription Campaign spoke of the dilemma of those facing the draft. The civil war required conscripts to serve in the black townships. "Dne cannot stop a people's quest for freedom indefinitely. This war is unwinnable for the army."

All speakers linked the question of human rights to the issue of military conscription, and called for a return to voluntary service.

MISSING MEMBERS

OUR OWN "DISAPPEARADOS"

E.W.LEE & G.H.ROSS sent in membership fees, but without their addresses. If any member can assist us in tracing them, please contact the secretary at the address below!

Civil Rights League
P.O. Box 394
7735 CLAREMONT

LEAGUE LAUNCHES MOVEMENT AD PACEM

The Civil Rights League's contribution to the 1985 International Year of the Youth is proposing a MOVEMENT AD PACEM as an alternative service to military

The League draws members' attention to press reports, for example in the CITY PRESS of June 2nd, detailing the party political involvement of the South African army.

Simultaneously with the Security

UE ACTIVITIES

conscription for conscientious objectors.

MAP is conceived of as a domestic Peace Corps, non-governmental and non-racial, meeting the challenge of the incredible amount of hard work in service and support to the poorest areas and communities in our country.

The League calls for non-religious conscientious objectors to be granted the same right as religious conscientious objectors to alternative service.

Support for MAP has poured in from the Black Sash, Conscientious Objection Support Groups such as the Grahamstown Advice Office on Conscription, World Vision, SA Institute of Race Relations, Grant Rex, Wits SRC President, Alan Paton, and Graham McIntosh, PFP MP. The leaders of the SA Council of Churches, Anglican, Catholic and Methodist Churches express general support and have referred the proposals to their Youth departments.

Movement Ad Pacem may be written to at P O Box 394, Claremont, 7735.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

League press statements published by the media included protests against:

- the deaths of detainees Andries Raditsela, Unionist, and S. Mutsi, Student leader;
- the police shootings in Uitenhage, instead of the countrywide incorporation of Africans into Parliament;
- the Straf Kommando raid, killing people in Gaborone.

Police raiding the home of Matthew Goniwe, leader of the Cradock Residents' Association, soldiers distributed thousands of leaflets smearing CRADORA. An army plane circled over the location, with a loudspeaker broadcasting anti-Cradora propaganda.

CRADORA is affiliated to the United Democratic Front.

LOBBYING

The League sent the MAP proposals to the Geldenhuys Commission, which is inter alia inquiring into conscription. Sir Richard Luyt spoke to the proposals in his evidence to the Commission.

The League was amongst all those urging the repeal of the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act and inter-racial sex laws to the Select Committee of Parliament investigating those laws. These laws were annulled during June.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Sir Richard Luyt, League President, gave the opening address to the Black Sash 1985 national conference.

Speaking in his personal capacity, he called for an end to conscription.

Sir Richard, who fought in World War Two in both the British army and on secondment to Abyssinian Irregulars, gave evidence to the Geldenhuys Commission, as mentioned earlier. His excellent speech is reported in the latest SASH magazine.

Keith Gottschalk, League Chairperson,

addressed the End Conscriptioin Campaign national congress on post-Nkomati Southern Africa. He emphasised the Government's political choice of military and police repression, in the Eastern Cape and elsewhere, as the alternative to choosing government by consent of the governed.

Keith Gottschalk, who is an Honorary Vice-President of NUSAS, also addressed its annual congress.

The League was invited to the launching of the Umbutho Wa Modada amaHolo ase Ntshona-Koloni (Western Cape Men's Hostel Association).

S. Nkathazo, its secretary, wrote to the League :

"We have formed this organisation to struggle for our rights in the community. We believe it is our God-given right to live with our families near our places of work.

The conditions in which we are forced to live in the hostels are very bad and inhuman, and have been neglected for too long. Our Association is keen that all concerned individuals and groups be aware of what we are trying to do, and we also seek their active support."

The WCMHA address is:
K625 Nyanga,
Telephone (021)313-067

P R O G R E S S R E P O R T
The Chairperson Keith Gottschalk having been granted leave of absence for study, the burden of League work fell disproportionately upon Dot Cleminshaw and our youthful octogenarian Oscar Wollheim. Brian Bishop came to the League's assistance by interim printing of address labels for the Newsletter.

Our new secretary and treasurer, Bea and Doug Cornell, undertook the Herculean labour of cleaning out a clerical Augean stable. They have now largely completed removing deceased, disinterested and non-paying persons from the membership and Newsletter subscription lists, saving the League considerable printing and postage costs

Re-organising and updating League records after their removal to new premises, and arranging the computerisation of League membership records and address labels on our limited means, regrettably involved delay with this Newsletter.

W E L C O M E



The League welcomes new members: G.F. Baines, F. Bardiën, L.G. Baxter, H.A. Bowen, I. Brand, R. Ivey, A. Korber, J. Levine, T. Morphet, D. Schuster, W. van der Westhuizen, J.W.K. Whiting, D.W. Williams. Institutions joining are the Legal Resources Centres in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg, the SA Council of Churches, and the Southern African Literature Society.

For the first time in a decade, the League has a member under the age of thirty, starting to correct the skewed age distribution of our membership. Resignations were negligible, being the very aged, the very frail, or persons who had played no part in League activities for years. Especially pleasing is the calibre of new members joining: either professionals at the peak of their careers, or youthful graduates.

Replacing League members who have passed on requires us to find caring, active new members to take up the burden that for too long fell upon the same old stalwarts.

Please encourage all prospective new members to send membership fees to:

The Secretary
Civil Rights League
P.O. Box 394
CLAREMONT
7735

Membership is R5 per year. For OAPs, Students, low-waged, unwaged, others of limited means - R2 per year

IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE RODGER

With the death of George Rodger, the Civil Rights League has lost a stalwart worker, a wise counsellor and a cherished friend. Brother to Maggie of almost legendary League renown, George served as treasurer and committee member for many long years.

George Rodger was born in 1916 into a devout Presbyterian family. His father was, for many years, an Elder of the Presbyterian Church, and all four of the children remained faithful members of the Church (one son, James, being ordained as a minister).

George obtained an M.A. with first class honours and a clutch of medals, and after the war a B.Comm., all at UCT. He was a brilliant mathematician and, after gaining his M.A., studied actuarial science in London.

During World War II he joined up and used his great mathematical gifts in the instruction of pilots. Back in South Africa after the war, George joined the Southern Life Association, becoming an actuary.

He was very active in his church, serving as a member of the choir and being elected as an Elder. He eventually served over 30 years as an Elder, of which over 10 were as Session Clerk in St Kieran's Presbyterian Church in Fish Hoek.

Mathematics was not the only subject in which George had excelled. Until the end of his life he retained a proficiency in Greek and Latin. He seldom used these in his actuarial work (though on one occasion he did startle his colleagues by reading a Greek birth certificate). These subjects, however, did occasionally prove of use in debates in the Church. For George was for decades regularly appointed to serve on the Cape Town Presbytery (the regional court of the Presbyterian Church), as a commissioner to the General Assembly (the national synod of the Church) and as a member of the Executive Commission of the Church, serving in all these offices with distinction.

He once called himself 'a General Assembly addict'. No passive commissioner he, and frequently one would see him mount to the podium to take up the cudgels for some worthy cause. Often this was to support the liberal principles he held dear during debates on 'Church and Nation' reports. Looking slightly surprised to find himself facing the microphone, and sometimes a little dishevelled in his bachelor style, he would characteristically hesitate momentarily before beginning to speak. But all this would belie the incisiveness with which he expressed himself. For he typically went to the heart of the matter and pointed out aspects of it that had until then eluded others in the debate. As in the Church, so in League sessions!

Always he was motivated by a concern for the needy and the downtrodden and a yearning for a more equitable society. Frequently he would help people in need out of his own pocket.

George's interests and concerns stretched far beyond the bounds of the Church. He was, for instance, in youth a Boy Scout leader and in later years a member of the Glencairn Civic Association and of the Simonstown Historical Society. He also quietly supported many societies concerned with the alleviation of poverty or distress. To the Civil Rights League he brought his great talents, his principles and his hopes for a happier and more just South Africa, as well as his service and friendship.

The League mourns George's going and extends sympathy to Maggie and other members of their family.