

# The ANC School in Tanzania

The African National Congress believes that the task of educating the young militants is of fundamental political importance. As part of its educational policy, the ANC has established a school on a site made available in Morogoro by the Government of Tanzania.

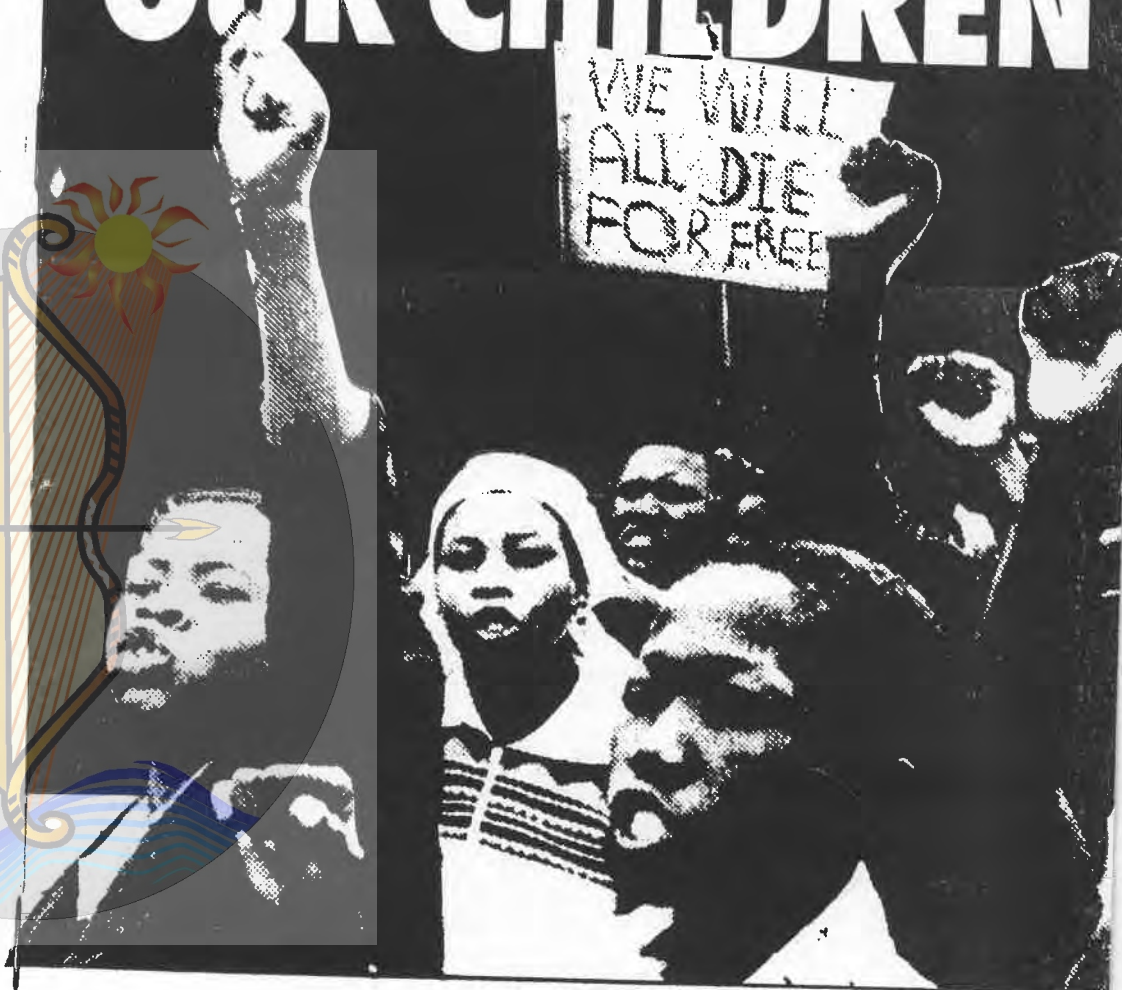
The purpose of the school will be to equip young South Africans to take their place first in the struggle against apartheid and later in the reconstruction of a liberated South Africa.

To this end the school will provide comprehensive schooling, democratic, progressive and anti-racist in content, for secondary school pupils and vocational training in industrial, agricultural and administrative spheres.

**THE  
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
SOUTH AFRICA**  
**Needs YOUR Support Now  
to Build and Equip a School  
for South African  
Students**

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South Africa is coming back  
**OUR CHILDREN**



**AFRICAN  
NATIONAL  
CONGRESS  
South Africa**

**INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR  
OF THE CHILD  
1979**



School children demonstrating during Soweto uprisings

# Youth in struggle

The oppressed youth of South Africa have a proud record in our struggle for national and social liberation. Throughout our people's centuries-long resistance against racist domination, the youth have been at the forefront of the battles to build a People's South Africa, free of racism and exploitation.

## ANC YOUTH LEAGUE

The Youth League of the African National Congress was formed in 1944 – a period of worldwide struggle against the forces of fascism and of the upsurge of the national liberation movement in Asia and Africa. The Youth League activists declared: 'Our goal is the winning of national freedom for African people, and the inauguration of a people's free society where racial oppression and persecution will be outlawed.'

Responding to the growing militancy of the people as a whole, and the increasing repression of the apartheid regime, the youth played a leading role in transforming our movement into a truly revolutionary organisation – capable of serving and leading the masses in their day-to-day struggles against the fascist state.

This process was reflected in the outstanding mass actions of the fifties, when hundreds of thousands of our people courted imprisonment in their militant defiance of apartheid laws. During these years, too, unity in action by all sections of our oppressed people was forged and consolidated. This found concrete expression in the adoption of the Freedom Charter in 1955 – drawn up and supported by all anti-racist and democratic forces in our country.

Among the founding members of the Youth League, who tirelessly served the masses during this stage of our struggle, were men like Oliver Tambo, Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu – who became outstanding revolutionary leaders and who champion the people's cause to this day.

## ARMED STRUGGLE

The banning of the ANC in 1960 posed a tremendous challenge to our youth and people as a whole. They were faced with the need to build a strong underground movement capable of continuing our organisation's historic task of leading the freedom struggle. In all the forms of clandestine organisation, our members risked long terms of imprisonment, torture and death at the hands of the fascist state.

Our youth rallied to the people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, when the armed struggle was launched in 1961. They played their part alongside revolutionary

patriots of all ages and backgrounds, in countrywide acts of sabotage against symbols of the racist regime.

Young men and women left South Africa to gain the military and political skills necessary for the struggles ahead. During the historic battles waged in the Wankie operations in Zimbabwe, soldiers of Umkhonto we Sizwe fought alongside their ZAPU comrades-in-arms against the combined forces of the South African and Rhodesian racist regimes. In these campaigns many lost their lives.

### RESISTANCE TO OPPRESSION

During these years, black youth and students played a crucial role in organising our people to resist the apartheid system at all levels. In the universities and schools, activists worked to educate the youth on the nature of our enemy and to build and strengthen national assertiveness and unity. Organisations like the South African Students Organisation (SASO), which was formed in 1968, played an important part in this work – fighting and exposing racist education designed to perpetuate servitude and oppression.

The early seventies saw the growth of many youth and community organisations which, despite continuous harassment, detention and imprisonment of leaders and activists, continued to mobilise against the system and expound their philosophy of black consciousness. This upsurge of militancy was also reflected in nationwide strikes by the leading force of our revolution – the black working class.

The victories of our brothers and sisters in Angola and Mozambique, as well as the worldwide advances of the anti-imperialist struggle as a whole, were a profound inspiration to young militants. In Southern Africa the myth of white racist invincibility had been smashed once and for all. SASO and the South African Students Movement (SASM), an organisation of school students, attempted to hold demonstrations in solidarity with FRELIMO, which were met with police brutality, arrests and bannings.

### 1976 UPRISINGS

On 16 June 1976, racist police opened fire on thousands of unarmed school children demonstrating against the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. The bloody massacre on the streets of Soweto roused international and national indignation. Resistance to 'Bantu Education' was transformed into a nationwide uprising against the apartheid entire system.

Despite the most brutal terror ever unleashed by the regime, in which thousands of our people were murdered, maimed and wounded, our youth heroically sustained their defiant protests, joining with all sections of our oppressed working people in organising nationwide stay-at-homes. All progressive South African youth – Coloured, Indian and democratic white – demonstrated their solidarity with the fallen young heroes of the struggle.

### NEW STAGE IN THE STRUGGLE

After 16 June 1976, South Africa would never be the same: our struggle for national and social emancipation had reached a new and higher level. Hundreds of our finest sons and daughters rallied to the call of the ANC and its military

wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, determined to meet the racist terror with revolutionary armed force.

Faced with determined and heightened resistance, the regime clamped down and banned all existing black anti-apartheid organisations in October 1977 and detained hundreds of young activists. During the past two years the repression has mounted steadily, with hundreds of youth and students facing detention, torture and long terms of imprisonment. Since 1976, over ten young activists have been murdered in security police detention – patriots like 20-year old Lungile Tabalaza who plunged to his death from Security Headquarters in Port Elizabeth, becoming the 50th known political detainee to have died at the hands of the Security Police since 1963. More than 200 political prisoners now serving sentences on the notorious Robben Island are of school-going age.

The commitment and strength of our youth have been reflected in many of the trials that have taken place in the recent past. The principled stand of young militants in the Pretoria 12 trial inspired worldwide support and showed clearly the unity in action of the young generation with older, leading cadres of the ANC. The trial of the SASM 11 on charges of 'sedition' has also been an example of the courage and dedication of our students in the face of long terms of detention and torture.

### SOLOMON MAHLANGU – HERO OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Solomon Mahlangu was one of the finest examples of our revolutionary youth. On 6 April 1979, he was executed by the racist regime despite a torrent of international protest and condemnation of the racist murder. Mahlangu left South Africa after witnessing the massacres of 1976 and a year later returned to his country, a member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, determined to serve his people. Solomon was intercepted in the centre of Johannesburg along with his comrades and, in the ensuing clash with racist police, two whites died. He was brutally tortured by security police and his friend and comrade, Mondy Motloung, was declared unfit to stand trial because of the extensive brain damage he received after his arrest. Mahlangu was sentenced to death on 2 March 1977 and, on hearing sentence passed, shouted: 'Amandla!' – 'Power!'

As Mahlangu sat in death row in Pretoria Central Prison, the world's progressive and democratic forces vigorously campaigned for a stop of execution, calling for recognition of our captured freedom fighters as prisoners of war. But the fascist regime ignored the demands of democratic humanity with callous indifference.

Solomon Mahlangu's fearlessness and heroism will be an inspiration to all future generations of young black South Africans. In his final message to his people, he said:

'Tell my people that I love them and that they must continue the struggle. My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. A Luta Continua!'

Mahlangu faced his execution like a soldier: he gave the ANC salute and, smiling, walked tall to the gallows.

The youth of South Africa are determined to avenge the death of Solomon Mahlangu and all the martyrs of our revolution – and to fight for the attainment of a non-racial and democratic South Africa. We pledge that 'These freedoms we

will fight for side by side, throughout our lives, until we have won our liberty.  
Our slogan is and will remain:

**VICTORY OR DEATH! AMANDLA NGAWETHU!**



The defiant youth



## **Urgent appeal**

The ANC (SA) Women's Section urgently appeals to all our readers to obtain subscribers and donations for the production of VOW.

We make this urgent appeal to enable us to keep producing VOW — without subscribers and without donations, we shall be forced to cease publication.

VOW is an important voice of our oppressed and exploited women in the struggle for liberation.

Please help.

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