

20/12/80
DAILY NEWS

JOHANNESBURG: United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim has been urged to act on the banning of two leading black journalists and the closure of four black newspapers.

The plea for UN action came from Mr Otto Kiersten, General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

"This is an obvious attempt to cripple independent black unionism and is in direct violation of internationally recognised labour standards. It is being drawn to the immediate attention of the free labour movement the world over."

Both in South Africa and abroad, a wave of criticism of the banning has poured in from journalists and other trade unionists.

The strongest reaction was to the banning of Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, President of the Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) and news editor of Sunday Post and Mr Marimuthu Subramoney, a Durban journalist and Mwasa official.

The action came just days after their union had ended an eight-week strike against South African newspapers.

Attack

The bannings and the closure of the Post, Sunday Post, Saturday Post and the Sowetan, which was confirmed by court order yesterday, also made banner headlines in the British Press.

The Times gave the story prominent play, while Mr Louis Heren, its deputy editor, declared the acts "another attack on Press freedom which must be resisted to the end."

The Guardian reported fears among black journalists that the actions marked the start of a further erosion of South Africa's already limited Press freedom, following attacks on the Press before the Steyn Commission on the media.

Mr Ken Ashton, General Secretary of Britain's National Union of Journalists (NUJ), said it would protest to the South African Government against the closure and the bannings.

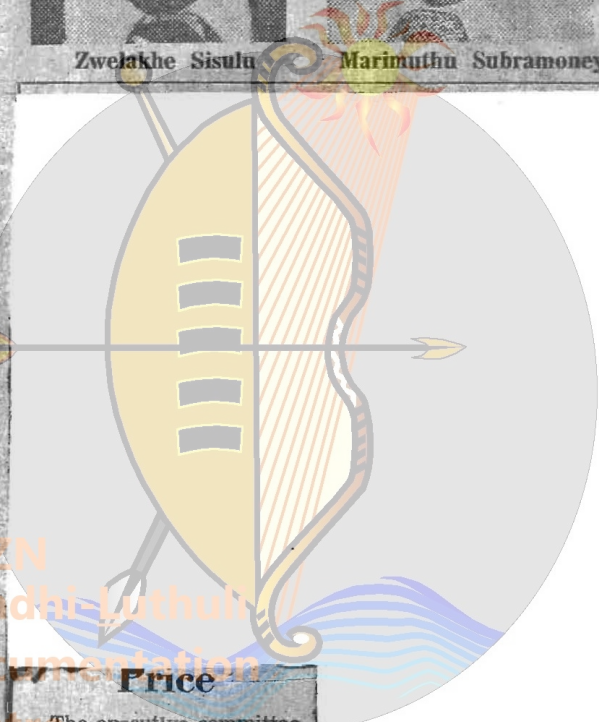
The terms of the three-year banning orders served on Mr Sisulu and Mr Subramoney are among the most severe ever issued.



Zwelakhe Sisulu



Marimuthu Subramoney



Price
The executive committee of Mwasa said yesterday: "We in Mwasa are not surprised at the banning of Mr Sisulu and Mr Subramoney, not only because bannings are common in South Africa, but because we saw it coming."

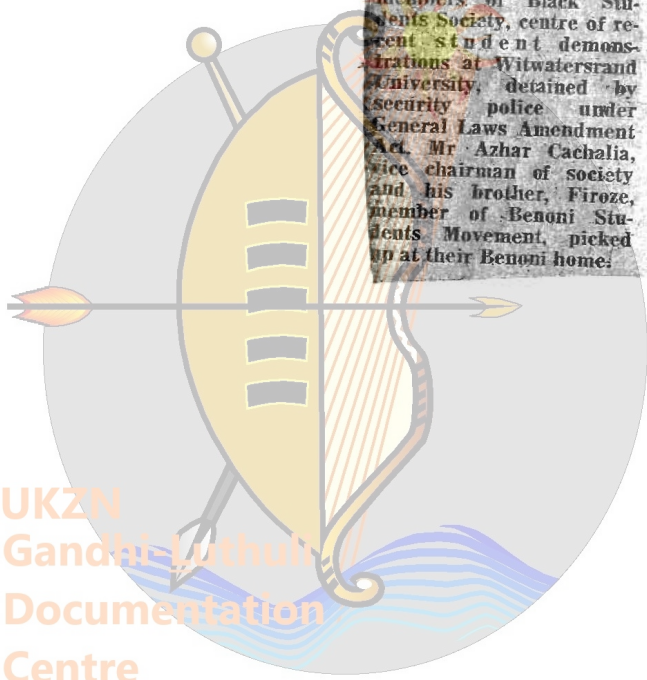
"Journalists throughout the country have been banned, detained and jailed. This however, they have accepted as the ultimate price they will have to pay in their fight for a just and multiracial society," Mwasa added.

Mr John Allen, President of the mostly white Southern African Society of Journalists, condemned the bannings as "an ultimately futile act and a demonstration of weakness," and called on journalists around the world to protest.

Natal Daily News

11/6/81

TWO DETAINED
JOHANNESBURG: Two members of Black Students Society, centre of recent student demonstrations at Witwatersrand University, detained by security police under General Laws Amendment Act. Mr Azhar Cachalia, vice chairman of society and his brother, Firoze, member of Benoni Students Movement, picked up at their Benoni home.



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