



1308/12

Repression Monitoring Group
BULLETIN 22: JUNE 1 - 15 1991

DEATHS - NATAL COASTAL REGION					
<u>NORTH</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>CENTRAL</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>6</u>
Driefontein	2	Durban	1	eZinkawini (PS)	1
Enyembe	15	Chesterville	1	Isipingo	1
KwaMashu	2	Hammarisdale	1	Ingwagini (PS)	1
Ndabayake	1	Maydon Warf	1	KwaMakhuta	1
Ngwelezane	3			Mawileni	1
Ntambanani	1			Umkomaas	1
Siceni Reserve	1				
Tongaat	1				
TOTAL (June 1 - 15): 36					

Focus on North Coast

- The figure of 15 deaths from the Eshowe area was reported as 'faction fighting' in the mainstream commercial press. However, monitors in the area reported that the fighting has assumed political overtones, as one area was labelled as an ANC stronghold.
- It should be noted that only one Natal newspaper made any attempt to investigate further the dynamics behind such a large death toll. All other papers seemed satisfied with leaving the incident as 'just another faction fight.'
- Since the end of May, there have been several reports of intimidation of Cosatu members around Empangeni. Members have been told that they must resign from their union and join Uwusa, and have been threatened if they refuse.
- Three members of a prominent ANC-supporting family were gunned down in their home in early June in Ngwelezane. These people had been named as 'troublemakers' in an earlier 'community' meeting convened by local indunas. A vigil for the deceased one week later was eventually called off, after repeated threats of intimidation and no assurance that the security forces would protect those attending the vigil.
- Also in Ngwelezane, a 'community meeting' was called for June 8. Flyers announcing this 'crucial' meeting included as the last item of the agenda: 'launch of an Inkatha branch.' The meeting reportedly never took place.

----- continued on reverse -----

Focus on Port Shepstone

- Although the death toll in Port Shepstone was notably lower than in the previous two months, fighting in the area has raged on. During this two week period, at least 45 homes were burnt down, and 350 people have fled their homes.
- Monitors in the area reported that the assassination of an induna in the Ingwagini ward on June 5 sparked off retaliation attacks, which in turn spurred more retaliation attacks.
- The Port Shepstone magistrate announced to 350 refugees from Umzumbe, who are temporarily being sheltered at a store and a mission, that they were not allowed to continue staying there. He provided no alternative venue, and offered no assistance.

Security Forces

- A boy was shot dead by KwaZulu police at point blank range after the taxi he was in was stopped at a KwaZulu police roadblock. The passengers were ordered to get out, were searched, and then the boy was shot 3 times by a member of the KwaZulu police.
- The KwaMakhuta KwaZulu police later denied the incident to the mother of the deceased. Only after demanding to police at CR Swart that she be allowed to see her son's corpse did she return with members of the South African Police to the KwaMakhuta police station. There she saw her son's corpse lying uncovered on the ground behind the police station.
- The Police Act of 1958 was ammended at the end of May, prohibiting members of the South African police from joining any political party or organisation with political activities. While this can be seen as a step in the right direction towards more balanced policing, this amendment does not apply to the Kwa-Zulu police, against whom repeated serious charges of bias have been laid.

Intimidation

- The University of Natal 'temporarily' removed Mzala's book *Gatsha Buthelezi: Chief with a Double Agenda* from its shelves, after Buthelezi's lawyers threatened to sue the library for defamation. The act was condemned by academics throughout South Africa. Inkatha spokespeople criticised the front page lead story of the *Saturday News*, and argued that the issue was not academic freedom, but rather freedom to protect one's reputation.
- In the KwaMashu hostels, a man was hacked to death after being found in the hostels wearing an ANC t-shirt. Although an eyewitness saw the South African Police from Empangeni remove the body, the incident was never reported in the press.
- There have been reports throughout May and June of intimidation by alleged Inkatha members carrying 'traditional weapons' at the Tongaat bus rank. Residents of Driefontein have been targeted, and at the end of May, one resident was stabbed to death while waiting on a bus at the rank. The intimidators - who are linked to 4 murders and at least 10 cases of arson in Driefontein - have been named to the local police. With the exception of holding the gang leader in prison for one week in April, no police action has been taken.

This bulletin is a compilation of information from press clippings from 6 Natal newspapers, 5 unrest monitors in Natal, police unrest reports and follow-ups with journalists, lawyers, and residents of the affected communities. For more information, please contact: Repression Monitoring Group, Black Sash, 27 Ecumenical Centre, 20 St. Andrew's Street, Durban 4001, Tel (031) 3055730, Fax (031) 3016611.