



Repression Monitoring Group
BULLETIN 23: JUNE 16 - 31 1991

DEATHS - NATAL COASTAL REGION			
<u>NORTH</u>	4	<u>SOUTH</u>	24
Esikhawini	2	Isipingo	1
Magwaveni	2	KwaMakhuta	5
		Port Shepstone	12
<u>CENTRAL</u>	1	Gamalakhe	10
Chesterville	1	Izingolweni	1
		KwaMehlomnyama	1
		Umbumbulu	2
		Umlazi	4
TOTAL (JUNE 16 - 31): 29			
* TOTAL JUNE: 65			

* See Bulletin 22 for a breakdown of figures and trends for June 1 - 15.

Focus on KwaZulu

Weapons

The Legal Resources Centre claimed and the Inkatha Institute confirmed that KwaZulu has distributed G3 rifles to chiefs and indunas throughout KwaZulu. Photos of Inkatha marchers in Tongaat carrying G3 rifles were printed in several newspapers. The LRC reported that the SAP had requested that this practice stop, as the weapons were heightening tensions.

The Inkatha Institute claimed that the weapons were distributed to protect government property after repeated attacks, and the weapons should only be used for protection of state property. Two KwaZulu legal provisions were repealed, allowing the court to pass lighter sentences for charges of violence using a weapon. Previously, weapons charges were met with a minimum sentence of imprisonment; now such offenders can legally be given as light a sentence as a verbal warning.

Courts

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, acting as Chief of the KwaZulu police, was ordered to pay R50 000 in damages to an 18-year old from Sundumbili. He was amongst 1000 people who were celebrating the release of Mandela last February, when they were shot at 31 times by the KwaZulu police. Buthelezi was also recently ordered to pay R8000 to a youth who was shot by a ZP member last year for no apparent reason.

Four prominent KwaZulu/Inkatha leaders have been in court recently on murder charges. They include KwaZulu Deputy Interior Minister Samuel Bhekisizwe Jamile, recently sentenced for murder and attempted murder; Inanda Inkatha leader Bongani Ndluli, sentenced for murder; KwaZulu MP Psychology Ndlovu, charged with murder; and KwaZulu MP Chief Zhawulengwe Mkhize, charged with murder and 16 counts of attempted murder.

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Intimidation

About 3000 Inkatha supporters from Lindelani and about 500 people from the KwaMashu men's hostels marched to Mshayazafe for an Inkatha rally on June 23. The men were heavily armed with spears, battle axes, and sharpened sticks. Confrontations with residents from Inanda and Ntuzuma occurred on the way to and from the rally.

At least 16 people were injured, most with stab or gunshot wounds. Some sources said the residents were injured when police fired on them for throwing stones at the marchers. Others reported that the marchers were insulting the residents and that a marcher shot and injured a man at Dalmeny's Farm on the way from Lindelani. One old man was stabbed and had his arm broken while an SAP member was standing nearby. Others witnessed the looters alongside the ZP members.

Three smear pamphlets sprung up in Natal in the runup to the ANC National Conference. One, printed on ANC letterhead, called for a stayaway in the areas around Empangeni to mark Mandela's visit, and read 'Gatsha will be reduced to a political dwarf after the 27th.' A second one in the same area, printed on Inkatha letterhead, denounced the stayaway and slammed certain community members for being 'used as puppets of the ANC.' The third was an 'open letter to comrade Zuma', printed on ANC letterhead, which claimed that Zuma murdered Muziwake Ngwanya.

Contralesa reported that there is an SADF plot to assassinate Contralesa General Secretary Chief Zibuse Michael Mlaba. SADF denied the claim.

Cosatu members from near Empangeni reported that following recent announcements by local Inkatha leaders that they must join Uwusa, Cosatu members are being forced to show their payslips to Inkatha members. They are threatened with death if they have not resigned.

Courts update

Thirteen people from the Driefontein-Tongaat area appeared in court on 22 charges including murder, attempted murder, abduction, arson and intimidation. The arrests follow more than 2 months of harrassment of the Driefontein community by the accused. Despite two months of pressure on the local Umhlali police to arrest the criminals, no action was taken until monitors collected more than 50 affidavits from the community and demanded a special investigation team from the Durban SAP. Cases will be heard July 18.

Adriaan Smuts, one of the three AWB members accused of last October's bus shooting massacre, was referred for psychiatric treatment following suspicion that he might not be fit to stand trial. One co-accused has already been sentenced to death and the second will appear with Smuts on September 9.

Press Watch

Ilanga reported 2000 Inkatha-supporting people had been chased from their homes in Malukazi by 'amaqabane'. A crisis worker in the area attempting to follow up the story found no displacees and heard no reports that anyone had been chased from their homes.

A series of misleading headlines struck the front pages of the *Daily News* around the ANC-organised June 16 commemorative rallies and marches. They included: 'No violence, ANC is warned', 'Police want to see decline in unrest maintained', 'Mandela ignores reported compromise and demands interim government' and a poster reading: 'MANDELA VOWS TO GET HIS WAY'.

These headlines created the impressions that the ANC was masterminding the violence, and that Mandela had sidestepped negotiated agreements to pursue his own agenda. Neither was substantiated in the stories. That the police oppose unrest or that Mandela demands an interim government were neither newsworthy nor the main points of the stories printed.

A Cosatu march - highlighting jobs, peace and security - was printed under the headline: 'Punks, drunks and red symbols mark Cosatu march through Durban.' The last paragraph mentions one drunk man and 3 punks - hardly the most notable aspect of the peaceful march of thousands through Durban.

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.



Repression Monitoring Group

OVERVIEW:

JANUARY - JUNE 1991

DEATHS

An average of more than 2 people per day were killed in the coastal region during the first six months of 1991.

The first 6 months of this year saw a 22% decrease in deaths since the previous 6 month period, and a 47% decrease since the first 6 months of 1990.

PEACE INITIATIVES

Both national and regional peace initiatives had no effect on decreasing the violence in the region. The death toll in the region in fact increased following the January 29 peace meeting between Mandela and Buthelezi.

The Lower Umfolozi peace agreement proved unreliable in preventing violence and intimidation along the North Coast. Reports of armed gatherings and the denial of venues to ANC and Cosatu structures are examples of breaches of this agreement. Chiefs and indunas in the area refused to honour the agreement following an ANC rally that coincided with Shaka's Day address by King Zwelithini in September.

The formation of a peace committee in Port Shepstone in April, which included representatives from the ANC, IFP and the police, had no effect on thwarting the escalating unrest. After the high profile initiative, followup meetings were fruitless as all parties were never fully represented. The relative calm in recent weeks has been attributed by local monitors to certain areas falling under complete control of Inkatha, and more effective patrolling by the SADF. However, the return of more than 400 refugees to their homes must be seen as a prerequisite for any real peace in the area.

SHIFT IN REGIONAL FOCUS

Both in the coastal region and in the Midlands, the focus of violence shifted away from the more densely populated urban townships to the rural and semi-rural areas. Along both the North and South Coast, there was a dramatic increase in violence, while the townships close to Durban and Pietermaritzburg saw a relative decline.

Deaths in the Port Shepstone area were almost double those of the previous six month period, and increased by 18% since the first six months of 1990.

The North Coast, including all areas north of the Tongaat-Ndwedwe area, saw a dramatic increase in unrest. There was a 65% increase from the previous 6 months and a 122% increase from the same time last year. Important to note is the high number of reports of intimidation that have come from this region this year.

A dramatic regional decrease was found in three areas.

The KwaMashu, Ntuzuma and Inanda area experienced 43% fewer deaths since the last six months of 1990, and a 58% decrease since the first six months of 1990.

In the Pinetown area, including the areas of KwaDabeka and Mpumalanga, there has been a steady decline since early 1990. Deaths in this region declined by 83% between the first and the second half of 1990, and remained low during the first half of this year.

The Tongaat - Ndwedwe area was relatively quiet this year, with half as many deaths recorded as during the previous six months and a 64% decline since the first half of last year.

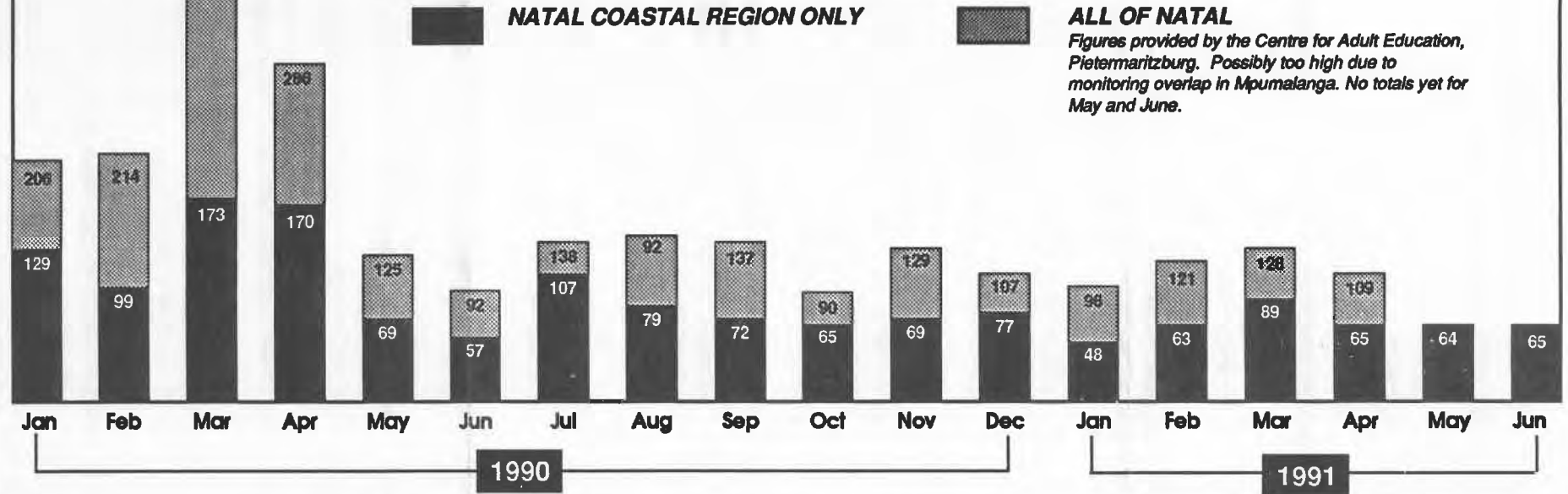
A steady decline was also noted in areas around Umlazi, although the death toll was still high at more than 50. Unrest in the Umkomaas-Umgababa area has also remained high since the latter part of last year.

INTIMIDATION

Death tolls are misleading. Areas that have seen a dramatic decline in deaths have seen no end to violence - in the form of intimidation. Marches of armed men, house-to-house forced recruitment drives, the distribution of weapons to tribal authorities, brutal coercion of people to attend Inkatha functions and harassment of activists by security forces has not ended. Thousands of refugees throughout Natal are still at risk if they attempt to return home.

Intimidation, though difficult to quantify, plays a central role in the continuation of violence. Not until basic freedoms of association and speech are guaranteed and intimidation is treated as a serious, punishable crime, will there be an end to violence. Until then, opposition will continue to be silenced, organisation and political education crippled, and fear instilled throughout the majority of people in Natal.

DEATHS : JANUARY 1990 - JUNE 1991



REGIONAL FOCUS

