

THE BLACK SASH



(NATAL COASTAL REGION)

Repression Monitoring Group BULLETIN 28: SEPTEMBER 1 - 15 1991

DEATHS - NATAL COASTAL REGION: 16		MIDLANDS: 12	
NORTH		SOUTH	
KwaMashu 2		Adams Mission 1*	Elandskop 1
Matshana 1		Gamalakhe 1	Georgetown 1
Ntuzuma 1*		Nsimbini 4	Imball 3
CENTRAL		Umgababa 1	Ndalenl 1
Durban 1		Umkomaas 1	Mpophomeni 1
Njobokazi 1		Umlazi 2	Ozwathini 1
			Slangspruit 1
			Underberg 2**
			Wembezi 1
TOTAL - NATAL (SEPT 1 - 15): 28			
NATAL TOTAL YEAR-TO-DATE: 889			

----- * Deaths occurred in August ** Deaths occurred in July -----

Security Forces

Outright shootings, assault and intimidation by members of the security forces have been widely reported throughout Natal. As communities still await justice against ZP members named in numerous killings, such as Umlazi's Siphwe Mvuyane, more ZP members continue to operate outside the law and face no punishment. The detentions of activists without laying charges by the SAP recently has been seen by monitors as a tactic of intimidation. SADF members, while operating effectively in many areas, have been recently reported as uncooperative and negligent in adhering to proper codes of conduct for searches.

KWAZULU POLICE

NTUZUMA: The ANC Youth League chairman in Ntuzuma was shot dead by ZP members last month, who allegedly opened fire without warning.

ADAMS MISSION: A ZP Constable shot dead Theresa Sandeni Ngocobo on August 27 at her home in Adams Mission. Three others were injured in the same attack, including the 6-year old son of the deceased.

OZWATHINI: A 15-year old was shot dead by KwaZulu police kitskonstabels in Ndwedwe near Ozwathini last month. They arrived at the home of the boy's family at 2am and said they had come for him because he had not joined Inkatha. The men spotted the boy hiding near the ceiling, shot him once, and then shot him three more times after he had climbed down and was seated on the floor. The kitskonstabels, accompanied by alleged IFP supporters, harassed and assaulted the grandmother and sisters of the boy, and warned them not to report that their son was killed by Inkatha.

KWAMASHU: A KwaMashu hostel dweller and unionist reported that in July ZP members told him that he should not belong to SARHWU and not work for the ANC since he was staying in 'a Zulu's place'. They then assaulted and threatened him and confiscated agendas and minutes from union meetings.

KwaZulu police members followed the KwaMashu Section M and N ANC branch chairperson from a September 12 meeting back to his home, and then surrounded it. The chairperson escaped out of a window and the ZP members left.

This bulletin is a compilation of information from press clippings from 6 Natal newspapers, 8 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.

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE

WEMBEZI: Twelve IFP youth were detained and later released without being charged. The IFP members reported being beaten while in detention, and laid charges of assault against the SAP.

KLAARWATER & BRUNTVILLE: ANC members were arrested, detained and then released without being charged. Two ANC members from Bruntville reported being tortured with electric shocks while being detained.

DURBAN: ANC exile Siphon Sithole was arrested upon his return to the Durban airport for a political offence he committed 4 years ago. This would appear to violate the blanket indemnity for exiles that the government has agreed to with the United Nations.

UMLAZI: Eight IFP supporters were injured when SAP opened fire at Umlazi U section. IFP members were returning from a meeting when clashes with local ANC supporters broke out. The SAP asked the people to disperse and then opened fire.

SADF

GAMALAKHE: On September 5, SADF members raided the home of the secretary of the ANC Youth League and confiscated his ANC minute book and attendance register. Further reports suggest that people whose names appeared on the register are now being targeted for raids by SADF members.

On September 11, SADF members at a roadblock in Gamalakhe refused to identify themselves and failed to produce any search warrants.

AMANZIMTOTI: About 20 homes were raided in Bhekulwandle near Amanzimtoti by members of the SADF, accompanied by SAP Riot Unit members. Residents reported that the SADF members broke down doors, climbed in through windows, and stole items such as radios, shields and Zulu drums.

Njobokazi

Unrest continues to plague the rural area of Njobokazi, outside Mpumalanga.

As many as 80 homes have been burnt down in the last two weeks, forcing hundreds of people to flee to Mpumalanga. Some monitors have attributed the clashes to the recent return of many people who previously left the area during violence.

On September 8 and 14, homes in an IFP area were burnt down, and on September 15, homes in ANC-supporting Hlangezwa were burnt down. One crippled man was later found shot dead in his home. The latter attack was allegedly carried out by Inkatha supporters from Woody Glen, led by members of the KwaZulu police. One eyewitness said that SAP vehicles were nearby, observing, while the homes were being burnt.

Intimidation

UMBUMBULU: Residents report IFP members going door-to-door demanding R50 from each family.

TONGAAT: Two IFP supporting women were raped at Nondabula, allegedly by ANC supporters who made their boyfriends watch.

MTUNZINI: The headmaster at Mashananda High School near Mtunzini confiscated ANC t-shirts from students and banned them from wearing them at school. He did not confiscate IFP t-shirts, and reportedly said that he was instructed by the local chief to ensure that no ANC t-shirts were worn at the school. In another incident, 15 girls in Mtunzini were given 200 lashes by IFP supporters, allegedly for having boyfriends who are ANC supporters.

MAGWAVENI: The chairman of a recently launched IFP branch in Magwaveni wrote a letter to the Residents Committee chairman informing him that the Committee is now defunct, that any attempt to continue operating will be met by legal action, that only IFP-convened meetings will be held at the community hall.

Peace Accord

It is unlikely that the peace accord will have an immediate effect on reducing violence, due to certain factors:

- a compromise on the WEAPONS issue has excluded any definition of what constitutes a dangerous weapon, and thus the IFP may still argue that 'cultural weapons' are not dangerous and can be carried to political gatherings;
- the current violence is largely in rural areas, where people are isolated from newspapers and television;
- because it is precisely in the most violence-torn areas where political education is the weakest and antagonism the strongest, a vigorous, time-consuming programme of reportbacks will be critical to inform communities about how to undertake protecting their rights;
- while the structure of investigation into political violence in the accord is impressive, the system will need time to be put in place, and then more time to prove itself and regain the confidence of communities in cooperating with the system of justice.

However, it is encouraging that the KwaZulu Government is a signatory, therefore binding the KwaZulu Police by the strict and professional Code of Conduct for the Security Forces.