



Repression Monitoring Group
BULLETIN 34 : DECEMBER 1 - 15 1991**

DEATHS - NATAL COASTAL REGION: 11		MIDLANDS: 22	
NORTH	SOUTH	Bruntville	19
Esikhawini 1	Malukazi 3	Imball 2	
Mahlabathini 2	Murchison 2	Table Mt. 1	
Mtubatuba 1	Umlazi 2		
TOTAL (DEC 1-15): 33			
NATAL TOTAL YEAR-TO-DATE: 1248*			

Peace Accord

After nearly three months of no implementation of the September 14 Peace Accord, a Regional Dispute Resolution Committee was established for Natal. It is co-chaired by Archbishop Denis Hurley and Natal Chamber of Industries Mr MC Pretorius, and involves representatives from 21 organisations and political parties, including Siphso Gcabashe of Cosatu, Frank Mdlalose of the IFP, Pierre Cronje of the DP and a representative of the SAP.

The committee identified the following areas upon which to focus immediate attention: Mool River/ Bruntville, Richmond, Port Shepstone, Umbumbulu, Tongaat and Ozwathini.

Bruntville

18 people were killed in an attack on Bruntville township. At least 9 of these were women, 2 were younger than 10 years and 2 were pensioners over 70 years.

The massacre was carried out in three attacks. The first took place at 10am, in which hostel dwellers were turned back by residents and no deaths were reported.

During the second attack at 7.15pm, which left 4 residents dead, residents alleged that an SAP van and SADF Buffel were seen driving past the hundreds of attackers moments before the attack was launched. They allegedly fired tear gas at residents and took no action to stop the attackers.

In the third attack, at 5am the next morning, hundreds of heavily armed hostel dwellers left the hostel and attacked Bruntville township. One resident cited the attackers running past SAP members in 2 vans who took no action to halt the attackers. The attack continued for more than 1 hour; most people died of stabbing and hacking wounds. At least 100 homes were damaged or burnt.

Hostel dweller and IFP member David Sobiso told the *Natal Witness* that the attack was launched by hostel dwellers to avenge shootings at the hostel allegedly by ANC members from Bruntville.

A second urgent application has been made by the Legal Resources Centre for a Commission of Inquiry into the Bruntville massacre. A first submission was made on October 31, which was refused due to a 'lack of resources'.

The local SAP have made verbal promises to enforce a complete ban on carrying weapons in public. However, no written notice has yet been distributed to that effect.

Several Bruntville residents have reported being tortured in detention by SAP members. They alleged that SAP members claimed they owned AK47s, and when they denied this, the SAP members tortured them.

One resident died in detention, allegedly due to being refused medical attention for a severe tonsil infection.

*** Information received subsequent to printing Bulletin 33 resulted in inaccurate figures for November.**
 The following adjustments should be noted in the below areas. Areas not listed here remain correct as in Bulletin 33. The total for November was 127, bringing the year to date as of November 31 to 1215.
 Imball.....8; Bruntville.....2; Greytown.....2; Mafakadini.....0; Richmond Area.....3; Port Shepstone Area.....15

**** THE NEXT RMG BULLETIN WILL APPEAR IN THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1992, AND WILL COVER REPORTS FROM DEC 16 1991 - JAN 31, 1992. STATISTICAL OVERVIEWS OF 1991 WILL BE INCLUDED.**

Weapons

Justice Didcott of the Durban Supreme Court ruled that President De Klerk's August 1990 amendment to the Natal Code of Zulu Law was 'void for vagueness'. The amendment had expanded the circumstances under which dangerous weapons could be carried in Natal, by permitting them to be carried in accordance with traditional Zulu usages, customs or religions.

At the December 15 IFP rally in Umlazi, IFP supporters were not disarmed of spears, battle axes, bush knives, sharpened sticks and knobkerries. One of four main banners for the rally read: 'Our traditional weapons are here to stay!'

Police confiscated 17 G3 automatic rifles and 2800 rounds of ammunition. No arrests were made. The SAP said that those in possession of the rifles had permits for them, issued by the KwaZulu Government. Two hand grenades were also confiscated by the SAP in Umlazi.

KwaZulu Police

A Joint Legal Resources Centre - Human Rights Commission report on the KwaZulu police was released, drawn from affidavits, court records and unrest monitor reports.

It documented:

- A) 116 cases of KZP members carrying out unlawful shootings, assaults, threats, arson or intimidation against people seen as non-Inkatha. 60 people died from the above incidents.
- B) The death of 44 people in 52 documented cases of KZP collusion with vigilante action against people seen as non-Inkatha.
- C) 28 instances of KZP disruption of non-Inkatha meetings, marches, funerals or vigils.
- D) 13 Supreme Court interdicts since 1987 restraining the KZP from assaulting or harassing residents in KwaZulu areas.
- E) 23 cases of KZP failure to accept complaints at a KZP station, to respond to calls for help, or to take steps to investigate a complaint.
- F) 20 confrontations with members of the SAP or SADF.

The report also highlighted other important trends:

- A) **SAP NEGLIGENCE:** Although the SAP is legally responsible for policing in KwaZulu areas, it consistently claims it cannot operate in KwaZulu areas as it is not their jurisdiction. This occurs despite requests by communities, lawyers and monitors for SAP assistance in protection and investigations in KwaZulu areas.
- B) **FAILURE TO DISARM:** The KZP consistently failed to enforce laws restricting the carrying of dangerous weapons prior to the repealing of most of the relevant laws in 1990 and 1991.
- C) **KZP MEMBERS EVADE PROSECUTIONS:** KZP members implicated in unlawful shootings and assaults have not been arrested or charged for their actions. Any actions taken to prosecute such KZP members was taken by SAP members.
- D) **PRO-INKATHA BIAS:** A deeply entrenched bias in favour of Inkatha exists due to the overlap of authority on all levels between Inkatha and KwaZulu officials.
- E) **COVERT ACTIVITIES:** Select KZP members have been trained by the SADF in para-military activities at a military base in Mkuze in northern Zululand. This training was done with funds from the SAP at a camp allegedly used also by the IFP. Those trained at these camps were then sent on hit-squad missions to eliminate ANC activists. Other trainees were posted at KZP stations, and allegedly served as a link to channel firearms to Inkatha vigilantes. Others worked in the Bureau for Special Investigation, monitoring the activities of ANC/UDF activists.

A study by the Centre for Social and Development Studies and Human Sciences Research Council reported that from January to June 1991, the KwaZulu police played an aggravating and negative role in 55% of the events at which they were present.

The same was shown for SADF action, either alone or assisting the SAP or ZP. SAP activity served to intensify the conflict in 27% of events at which they were present.

It also showed that in 40% of deaths, lethal firearms were used. During these six months, 13 security force members were killed in the course of carrying out their duties.

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.