



Repression Monitoring Group
BULLETIN 35: DEC 15, 1991 - JAN 31, 1992

This is the last Bulletin of the Black Sash Natal Coastal Region Repression Monitoring Group. A final report will be sent to all Bulletin recipients in early March. This report will include statistical overviews of unrest in Natal over the past few years, regional trends, a focus on specific issues, case studies, and a comparative analysis of peace initiatives in Natal. Further information about the ongoing civil war in Natal can be obtained from the Human Rights Commission in Natal.

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DEATHS - NATAL COASTAL REGION: 42		MIDLANDS: 28	
<p><u>NORTH</u> Empangeni 1 Esikhwini 1 Mtubatuba 1 Nseleni 2 Richard's Bay 1</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p><u>CENTRAL</u> Durban 3 Mpumalanga 12</p>	<p><u>SOUTH</u> Isipingo 1 P. Shepstone 11 <i>Bhomela 1</i> <i>Gamalakhe 2</i> <i>Nsimbini 1</i> <i>Murchison 6</i> <i>Other 1</i> Umlazi 9</p>	<p>Imball 1 Landauville 2 Ndalenl 2 P'Maritzburg 2 Richmond 5 Table Mt. 2 Wembezi 5 OTHER* 9 <i>(No details at time of printing)</i></p>	
TOTAL (DEC 16-31): 70		TOTAL DEC : 103	
NATAL TOTAL 1991: 1256			

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DEATHS - NATAL COASTAL REGION: 65		MIDLANDS: 26	
<p><u>NORTH</u> Empangeni 3 Eshowe 6 Esikhwini 1 Ngwelezane 1 Nseleni 2 Ozwathini 3 Stanger 1</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p><u>CENTRAL</u> Inchanga 1 KwaNdengezi 5</p>	<p><u>SOUTH</u> Harding 2 Malukazi 2 P. Shepstone 15 <i>Bhugward 1</i> <i>Boboyi 3</i> <i>Madakane 1</i> <i>Mtengwane 1</i> <i>Mtwalume 7</i> <i>Nyandezulu 2</i> Umbumbulu 7 <i>Mpusheni 7</i> Umgababa 1 Umlazi 14 <i>Chimora 9</i> <i>Uganda 5</i></p>	<p>Edendale 1 Eston 1 Madadeni 1 Mpandle 2 Mpophomeni 3 Ndalenl 3 Ntabanhlophe 2 Patheni 3 P'Maritzburg 4 Richmond 1</p>	
TOTAL JANUARY : 91			

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Peace Accord

Peace Accord structures have still been slow in taking hold in local communities.

In rural areas, the role of the indunas and chiefs has been controversial, as has been the presence of the KwaZulu police in ANC-supporting areas.

In RICHMOND, the IFP distanced itself from the Local Dispute Resolution Committee (LDRC) after several of its members were killed. In BRUNTVILLE, the LDRC was formed on the initiative of Justice Goldstone, yet has experienced major obstacles since he and other 'dignitaries' left the area.

In UMLAZI, a LDRC has been set up, yet many ANC-aligned residents are fearful to come forward with information to the committee so long as the KwaZulu Police sit on the Committee. Initiatives are underway in UMBUMBULU, PORT SHEPSTONE, WEMBEZI and other areas to set up LDRCs.

Umlazi squatter settlements

Violent clashes have occurred at the squatter areas of Uganda, Ekuthuleni and Chimora near the T section hostels in Umlazi, leaving at least 25 dead in the last 2 months.

Residents report that although there have been minor ongoing tensions between the hostel dwellers and the shack residents for some time, recent violence was provoked by members of the KwaZulu police.

Residents have reported KZP members shooting at residents in broad daylight, and carrying out brutal assaults of suspects while in detention. The move by the KZP to set up a mobile police station in the area without consulting the residents has led to further tension in the area.

Media Watch

Media coverage of the unrest during the holiday period was worse than usual, as several massacres occurred without any investigative reporting or follow-up.

This lack of coverage was even more noticable in light of the sensationalised news coverage given to white victims of violence.

Most noticable was the case of two police constables allegedly executed while hitch hiking. The widespread coverage of the incident, the victims' personal histories and the energetic police response warranted more coverage than the deaths of more than a dozen black victims of violence during the same week - reaffirming the inbuilt racism of the commercial media.

South Coast area

The PORT SHEPSTONE area has seen a dramatic increase in brutal attacks in the last few months, following a period of relative calm around September last year.

Local monitors report that the majority of the attacks are targeted and carried out with high-powered automatic weapons.

In Mpusheni in UMBUMBULU, 7 people were killed in an attack at their home. As in several other massacres late last year, the attackers were allegedly wearing camouflage uniforms and balaclavas, and shot the victims at point blank range.

Bruntville Commission of Inquiry

A commission of inquiry was held into the massacre on December 3 and 4 which left 19 people dead in Bruntville township. Justice Goldstone and two other commissioners heard evidence from Bruntville residents, hostel dwellers and advocates representing the SAP, SADF, Mooli River Textiles, the KwaZulu Government, the IFP and the Bruntville residents.

The ANC supporting residents accused the SAP of negligence in failing to stop the attack and for repeatedly failing to uphold the law and disarm hostel dwellers of carrying spears in public. The IFP said the attack was a response to a concerted campaign of violence by the ANC against the hostel dwellers.

Five minutes after the close of the inquiry, an attack took place in the centre of Mooli River, allegedly by hostel dwellers on a Bruntville resident. SAP members nearby failed to make any arrests or disarm the attackers.

IFP member Philip Powell made submissions representing the KwaZulu Government, although neither Mooli River nor Bruntville fall under the jurisdiction of KwaZulu.

Residents criticised Justice Goldstone for failing to state his findings in public to the community and for failing to ensure that the Attorney General prosecuted the perpetrators of violence.

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.

305/12

BLACK SASH REPRESSION MONITORING GROUP SPECIAL FOCUS: MOOI RIVER-BRUNTVILLE AREA

THE CONFLICT

Since January 1991, more than 55 people have been killed in the Mool River-Bruntville area, scores more injured, more than 40 homes burnt down in Bruntville township, and part of the mens hostel itself damaged from attacks.

The Legal Resources Centre, acting for the residents of Mool River, has compiled 45 affidavits and numerous other pieces of pictorial and written evidence pertaining to the unrest. This information demonstrates that several local actors have acted in violation of the Peace Accord.

Bruntville residents stated that the conflict began to escalate in July, when hostel residents began carrying dangerous weapons to the main factory - Mool River Textiles (Moolitex). These weapons included spears, metal rods, sharpened sticks and bush knives, and were permitted inside the factory premises. Several people have subsequently been stabbed to death in town, outside the factory, and inside the premises of the factory.

Local IFP leaders assert their members are under attack and thus justified to arm themselves. The Inkatha Institute reported that 25 homes of IFP supporters have been burnt in Bruntville since July.

LOCAL POLICE RESPONSE

From July, local monitors have criticised the police response as 'biased and unprofessional'. The police are accused of perpetrating the violence through 1) failing to physically provide protection for the residents of the area, and 2) failing to properly investigate the incidents of unrest.

The most serious criticism of the local police is their failure to disarm people carrying dangerous weapons in public, thus contravening four bi-laws.

Actions to protect the area - such as stationing a permanent police vehicle near a bridge underpass where attacks often took place - were not implemented. A secure, hole-free fence around the hostel

to assist in monitoring people's movements and safeguarding against attacks was also never erected.

Several Bruntville residents cite SAP members refusing to investigate actions in which the victim is seen as supporting the ANC.

A 64-year old man who had been stabbed by known assailants requested the police to investigate his case. The police responded that they were under instructions to only investigate Inkatha cases.

Other residents reported seeing police near the scene of a stabbing, yet who failed to apprehend the assailants or take statements.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Community representatives made numerous requests to the local police to disarm the hostel dwellers. As recently as October 7 they were again told by police that the hostel dwellers are 'authorised' by Buthelezl to carry the weapons, and thus cannot be legally disarmed.

Many residents were threatened and attacked at work by hostel dwellers. Many were afraid to continue working and stayed at home. On October 14, residents launched a stayaway and consumer boycott, to demand that all hostel dwellers be disarmed of their spears and other dangerous weapons.

Although hostel dwellers are still not disarmed, the stayaway was called off on October 27 after police promised to begin disarming. A local IFP leader has demanded the ANC write a written promise that it will not attack hostel dwellers.

RESPONSE BY MOOITEX

Personnel officers have supported the local police view that hostel dwellers are 'authorised' to carry 'traditional' weapons. They have provided storage facilities for the weapons, thus implying it is not illegal to carry such weapons.

Employees who were threatened at work and requested to work only day shifts were refused. When employees did not show up for long periods, Mooitex dismissed them.

Workers and Sactwu officials have accused Mooitex of a pro-Uwusa bias. Sactwu has criticised Mooitex for failing to address repeated cases of violent forced recruitment by Uwusa members of Sactwu members.

When employees were killed inside

LEGAL RESOURCES CENTRE RESPONSE

The LRC has failed in repeated written and verbal attempts to persuade the local police to enforce the relevant laws and disarm hostel dwellers.

Based on the information collected, the LRC has submitted the following recommendations to the newly-formed Commission of Inquiry into Public Violence and Intimidation:

- 1) that the bearing of weapons in public is in breach of the National Peace Accord,
- 2) That residents be directed to refrain from carrying weapons in public;
- 3) That the SAP take steps to prevent person from carrying weapons in public; and
- 4) That the local textile factory (Mool River Textiles) cease supplying storage facilities to workers bearing weapons.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

On October 16 the mayor of Mool River requested that the Minister of Law and Order declare the area an official unrest area.

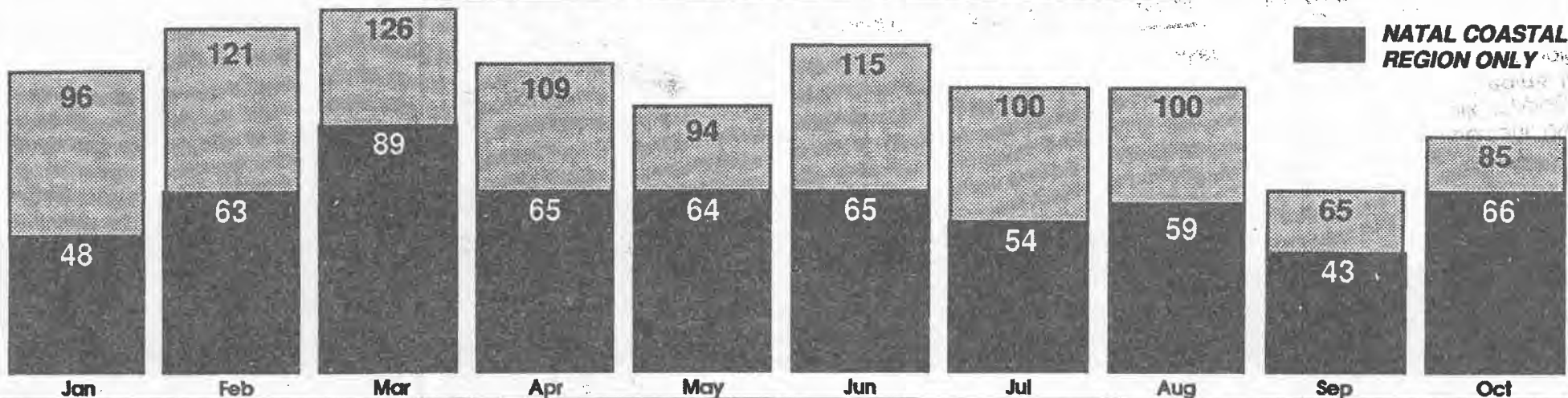
WHITE COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The white community, supported by the local businesses who have suffered severely under the two-week boycott, called for the assistance of about 30 armed AWB supporters to patrol the white areas of the town to 'maintain law and order'.

the premises and at the gate of the factory and Uwusa members were implicated, Mooitex took no disciplinary action. Threats against security guards attempting to disarm employees were disregarded.

Mooitex also displayed bias by contravening its 'no work, no pay' agreement. Uwusa workers were paid during a work stoppage to protest police confiscation of firearms from their lockers. Mooitex also paid the bail for workers charged with possession of firearms.

DEATHS : JANUARY - OCTOBER 1991



BLACK SASH RMG: O V E R V I E W

Devastation...

An estimated 1088 people have been killed in Natal since January 1991 - an average of nearly 4 people per day. Yet there are other equally devastating consequences of the on-going unrest.

In the Coastal region alone, about 350 homes have been burnt down or seriously damaged. This could mean as many as 3500 people who have lost all of their possessions and their homes in the last 10 months.

Scores of people have been injured, many permanently, thus losing their means of livelihood for themselves, and possibly their families.

Schools have been disrupted or closed down for significant periods of time in KwaMashu, Umbumbulu, Malukazi, Richmond, Empangeni, Njobokazi and other areas. Even now, students from Umbumbulu are unable to write their exams at their schools due to ongoing attacks.

And Peace...

The Peace Accord has had a minor effect on reducing the number of deaths in Natal - notably in the Midlands. However, harassment, intimidation and assault are still prevalent in many areas.

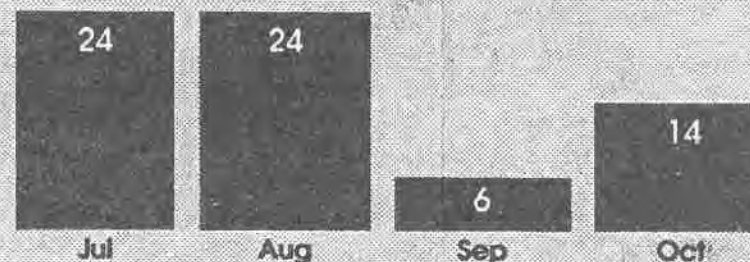
Although KwaZulu was a signatory to the Peace Accord, many areas under the jurisdiction of the KwaZulu police have seen no marked decrease in unrest. In several areas, KwaZulu police appear to turn a blind eye to well-known perpetrators of violence.

Prominent political activists on both sides continue to be singled out and targeted for attacks, as well as harassment by security forces.

Confidence-building measures between communities and police need to begin if the Peace Accord is to be successful.

FOUR-MONTH REGIONAL FOCUS

PORT SHEPSTONE AREA



DURBAN SOUTH

(from Umlazi to Umgababa, including Umbumbulu, KwaMakhutha, Folweni, Adams Mission, etc.)

