



MUSLIM STUDENTS  
ASSOCIATION

# VOICE OF THE YOUTH

IN THE SPIRIT OF ALLAH, GOD

*A nation that forgets  
its martyrs will soon  
itself be forgotten.*

SOWETO - anniversary

JUNE 1987

## SOWETO '76

It is now the eleventh year since the eruption of the pent up frustrations and anger in the township of Soweto. It is now the eleventh year since the death of 16 year old schoolboy Hector Peterson. His crime was to object to the implementations of the Afrikaans language in black schools which only served as a catalyst to the anger and frustrations that were already burning and waiting to be vented.

The picture of Hector Peterson being carried by a friend and his sister running alongside was seen around the world. Since that fateful day the violence seems to have stepped up all over the country and has resulted in numerous state of emergencies over the years with one imposed on Thursday 11 June 1987.

The role played by children in the struggle is highlighted over again when one takes into account the number of children in detention at present viz. 8500. The detainees of these children and their deaths also serve as a reflection to the cold hearted and bloody oppressors in power.

Peaceful protest and objection has given way to violence as the Botha regime have continually horrified and disappointed South Africans with their arrogance and brutality.

Violent deaths, rocketing waves of crime and strikes are all symptoms of a disease already firmly entrenched in South Africa and that is apartheid. Treat the disease and the symptoms gradually disappear.

### JUNE 16



## HE LIVES

# CHILDREN IN DETENTION

CHILDREN IN DETENTION

One of the most significant events of June '76 was the uprising of Soweto students. This move characterised the reawakening and conscientizing of a new generation of active youth seeking equal education in an equal society for all. Their outcry against gutter education and ghetto schools was repressed by the states camouflage-clad security forces whose orders were "shoot to kill".

To date nearly 25 000 people have been detained since the start of the oppressive state of emergency on 12 June '86. This averages nearly 70 people being detained daily. This exorbitant figure includes 8500 students aged between 12 to 18. The relentless nature of the riot police has resulted in 3 recent deaths, now totalling 64 deaths in detention. These youths have been detained because of subversive activities and being a threat to the apartheid regime, 2 rather arbitrary concepts.

Prison conditions are inhuman. Police brutality, assaults and torture have been meted out to these helpless youth. Unhealthy food, with worms included, are being fed to the detainees. There is also a lack of basic facilities.

Some of the repercussions resulting from these inhumane acts are frustrations, hate, fear and also these children hold their lives in low esteem. These kids are growing up without any perception or understanding of justice. This will cause untold damage to the future cohesion of a better country.

## Jihad bi al-Lisaam

"The best Jihad is the uttering of the word of truth in the face of the tyrant." (Ibn Majah- Kitab al Fitan)

"And why should ye not fight in the cause of Allah and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)? Men, Women and Children whose cry is: "Our Lord! Rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from Thee one who will protect, and raise for us from thee one who will help! Those who believe fight in the cause of Allah and those who reject faith fight in the cause of evil: So fight ye against the friends of satan: feeble indeed is the cunning of satan."

(4:75-76)

DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

University of Durban-Westville

ACCESSION NO. 942/301