

its former role. Simultaneously the legend of Makana has revived. With such famous freedom fighters as Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, is it any wonder that our people feel that this is what the prophecy meant that in modern times the spirit of freedom would arise to overwhelm the oppressors? With their lack of historical sense the oppressors had forgotten the significance of Robben Island when they re-opened it as a prison settlement.

But then to the prison authorities all over South Africa the thousands of people kept in gaols for political 'offences' are just nameless 'Natives' who have dared to challenge White Supremacy. They do not know and do not care to know who these men and women are—their contributions to the welfare of mankind, their gifts and skills which in other circumstances could do so much for progress. But to the vast majority of the people who support the freedom movement of all races these are not nameless prisoners. They are individual men and women who have made great sacrifices that men may be free. We are not concerned for the moment with the great names of Mandela, Sisulu and so on, but with all those others who are just known as 'political prisoners'.

SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT

(to the prisoners of apartheid)

*Saliva drooling from their gums
tearing into you
like a pack of ravenous wolves
they rip your naked flesh
with wild beast fangs.*

*Brothers
we hear your screams
your tormented cries
that split the night
in half*

*Hold on brothers
Hold on
we hasten to your den of desolate hell.*

*Your sun is hidden
behind a cloud
of locusts on the swarm
we come brothers we come
to rip their wings apart.*

A. N. C. KUMALO