

editorial.

We in Action Youth note with growing concern and disgust the reactionary actions of members of certain organisations. These actions can only strengthen the enemies of the black working class. In revolutionary organisations we believe, there is a need for workers' democracy. The revolutionary movement is strengthened when there is an internal situation where different opinions on the road forward are accepted as being differences WITHIN the movement.

The idea, or even worse, the action of seeing political alternatives in the movement as 'obstacles' that have to be physically removed should be banished to the Stalinist dungeons from where they come. Violence is a means of self-defence against the capitalists, not a means of settling disputes in the revolutionary movement. Those who perpetrate violence against people in the movement must be treated with the utmost contempt and these actions must be exposed at every turn. They are sowing the dragon's teeth of future civil wars as people and organisations at the receiving end defend and retaliate.

According to the editorial in the Sowetan Sunday Mirror (May 12) :

"Not all the attacks can, of course, be blamed on the agents of the system. We know that there has been a campaign by certain elements within the UDF to attack AZAPO members. There were several of such specific attacks. For these, UDF must take full blame and be big enough to accept responsibility. Whether or not these actions were sanctioned by the UDF senior executive is not the issue."

FOSATU have also been victims of such behaviour. In the May Day issue of FOSATU WORKER NEWS we read...

"They ("opportunistic" affiliates of UDF) have hijacked funerals and have used them as a platform to attack FOSATU and NAAWU leaders as enemies of the people.

More recently they have attempted to smear FOSATU by saying that it was responsible for the Langa massacre!"

There are numerous other incidents, too many to catalogue, which we feel reflects the disregard for democracy and spurs on sectarianism. Recently the resources of the Screen Training Project (members of whom are in UDF) was withheld from Action Youth. Among the reasons for refusal was Action Youth's participation in the Kennedy demonstration.

The problem we are discussing is not limited to S.A. We have to face an unpalatable but nevertheless true reality when considering the recent history of the international revolutionary movement. Ana Maria of El Salvador, Maurice Bishop and Jacqueline Croft of Grenada, were not killed by the CIA or the Rapid Deployment force. The hundreds of Palestinian fighters killed in the war between supporters of Yasser Arafat and Abu Musa were not murdered by Israeli cluster bombs or the Massad (Israeli Secret Service). The same could be said of hundreds of revolutionaries killed or imprisoned during the struggle for liberation in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. These freedom fighters are not with us today because of the mistaken belief of some. In S.A. we have lost comrade Tshisa Marekisi and the 2 children of comrade Gerald Mayekiso. Their revolutionary ideas and aims remain. Let the perpetrators of these dastardly deeds one day understand the harm they have done to the struggle. They will be brought to book. History will point its accusing finger at them.