

**EDITORIAL**

**Racism and violence must end**

• Armed racist vigilantes are patrolling the streets attacking our people in places like Welkom. Hit squads continue to assassinate our comrades.

• The police, instead of protecting us, attack us when we retaliate against vigilantes. They massacre us when we exercise our right to demonstrate.

• Vlok, instead of taking action against his men, or stopping the vigilantes, has friendly meetings with the chief vigilante, Terreblanche. People who have murdered our people continue to operate freely in the townships.

• The CCB and other death squads openly boast about their crimes against our people, yet these squads are allowed to continue operating. No action is taken against those implicated in murder and other crimes perpetrated by these death squads, including Vlok and Malan.

• SADF, SAP and others are harassing residents under the guise of "Crime Prevention" operations such as Operation Watchdog.

• Buthelezi's police, the Inkatha warlords, and the SA Police continue to massacre our people in Natal. Instead of taking action against them, the state brings in trained murderers of the 32nd battalion. We are meant to believe that they are going to act as "Neutral Peace-keepers".

The state undertook to end the climate of "intimidation and violence" in the "Groote Schuur minute" which it signed after talks with our leaders. But apartheid intimidation and violence, if anything, is increasing against our people.

The situation described above is far more than a few trigger-happy white right wingers acting against our people. It is a systematic and far reaching campaign of violence against our people and their organisations. Certainly there are right wingers in the police and elsewhere trying to sabotage the negotiation process. But it seems that there are elements in the Government, powerful elements like Malan, who believe that the negotiation process goes hand in hand with state violence against our people and organisations.

This is designed to intimidate our people and weaken the position of the revolutionary alliance at the negotiating table. But there is no way that organised workers in our country will take this attack lying down.

Workers are determined that our document, the Harare Declaration should be fully implemented. The first phase of this document says that a climate of free political activity shall be created before negotiations can begin. The regime has taken some important steps towards creating this climate. But these steps are rendered meaningless if we are unable to freely participate in political activity without the fear of being attacked, assaulted and shot down. We need to ensure through our mass action that we create a climate of free political activity.

• We must defend our people from state and right wing violence. They must know that every action of violence against our people will be met with mass action from our organised formations.

• We must defend the political space we have gained and fight for further space to be opened up.

• We must campaign for the repeal of all repressive laws as outlined in the Harare Declaration.

• We must put pressure on the regime to disband all those institutions designed for the sole purpose of destroying opposition to apartheid through the use of violence and terror - this includes the CCB; the security police and their death squads; The State Security Council/JMCs, the NIS, Kitsconstabels and Municipal Police.

• We must pressurise the regime to control its remaining security forces through strict procedures, the suspension and charging of those abusing their powers etc. Troops must be confined to their barracks.

• We must demand that the regime disband the right wing vigilantes and commandos, and disarm them. At the same time we must deal with the rise of the white right wing politically, by showing whites that their interests lie with the Democratic Movement. We must pay special attention to white workers who are forming the social base of the extreme right.

• We must campaign for the dismantling of the KwaZulu Police, the charging of the warlords, and a Judicial Commission of Enquiry into the role of police in the Natal violence. Let our National Mass Action during the first week of July clearly demonstrate that we are not prepared to tolerate the violence against our people.

**COSATU CEC Resolution on the Natal situation**

After considering reports from all our structures in Natal the following was resolved:

**Noting:**

1. The war being waged by Inkatha warlords and the KwaZulu police against our people in Natal has resulted in thousands being murdered and tens of thousands being murdered and tens of thousands of internal refugees.
2. Our members have been greatly affected by this violence.
3. The security forces are actively sponsoring and supporting the vigilantes and warlords.
4. That COSATU and UDF have consistently worked for peace through negotiations with Inkatha on ways of ending this violence.
5. That all our efforts at negotiations are being undermined and rejected by Buthelezi whose verbal abuse of COSATU is creating a climate for violence against our people.

**Believing that:**

1. Our commitment to peace can only be secured in an environment of security and therefore does not exclude our right to self-defence.
2. National solidarity action is urgently needed to defend our people in Natal.

**Resolves:**

1. To demand that all warlords be immediately arrested and jailed without the option of bail and put on trial for murder, arson and violence.
2. To demand the appointment of an independent commission of enquiry into the role of the police in the continuing violence.
3. The KwaZulu Police be abolished.
4. The Bantustan system be dismantled.
5. COSATU investigate laying charges against leaders of Inkatha.

**Furthermore it was resolved that:**

COSATU mobilise an immediate national programme of mass action and take the following steps:

- i) Convene a national conference in Natal with our allies to finalise our programme of action.
- ii) All COSATU structures from factory to local, regional and national level discuss action to defend the comrades in Natal.
- iii) COSATU set up self defence committees at all levels of the organisation.
- iv) COSATU launch an international campaign to expose the role of Inkatha in the violence.
- v) COSATU calls on international bodies such as the ILO, United Nations, Commonwealth EEC, Non Aligned Movement and the OAU to take decisive action against Inkatha on the issue of violence in Natal. To this effect COSATU must dispatch delegations overseas to brief the international community.
- vi) To declare the first week of July a week of National Mass Action in support of our peace loving people in Natal if the regime and Inkatha do not take decisive action to end the violence in Natal.



**Defend your organisation!**