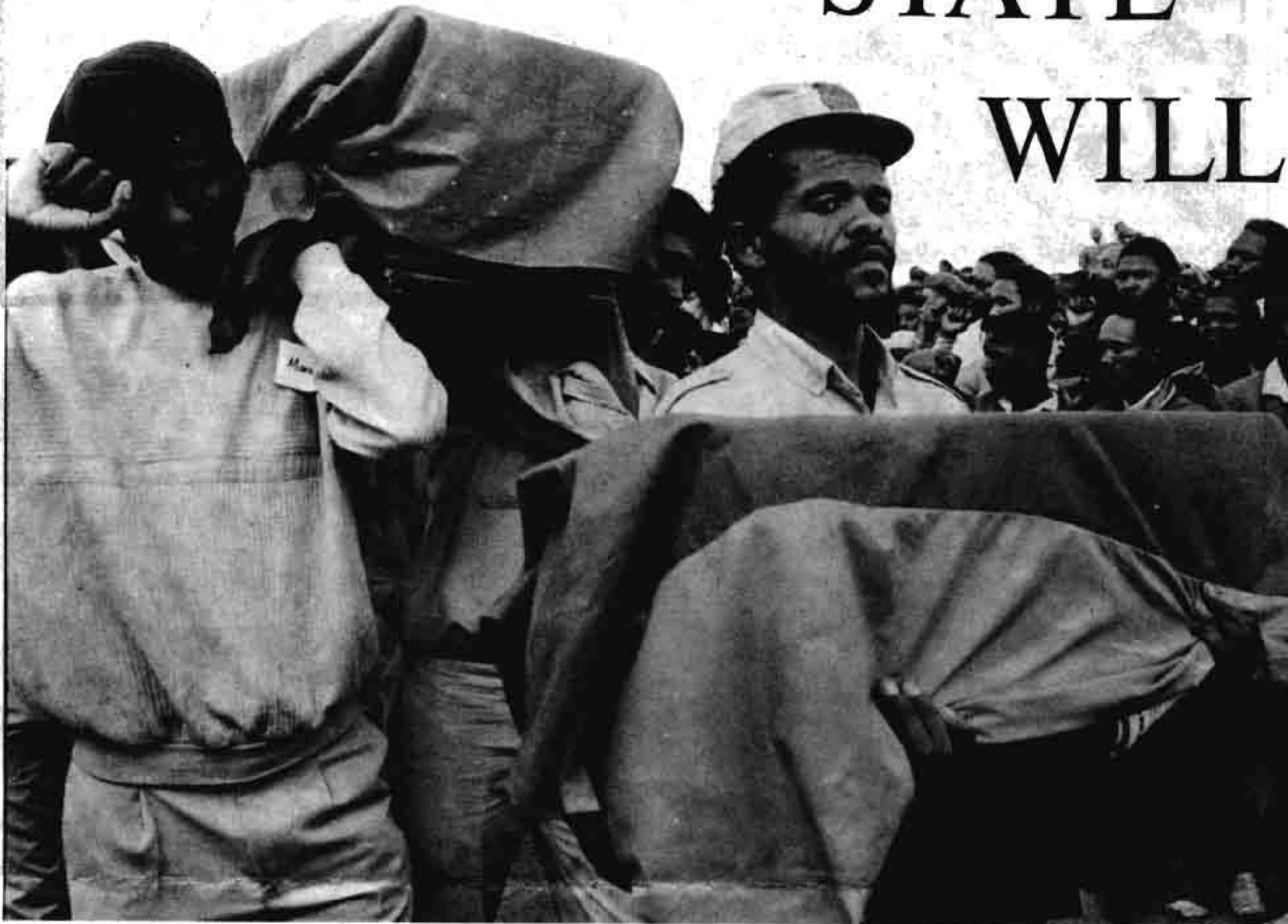


# STATE WILL



## WE SALUTE ALL OPPONENTS OF APARTHEID



A tiny little woman, always dressed in a white sari; a woman with a broad smile and a lively sense of humour; a woman who may to some seem timid; in reality, a woman who is a vociferous opponent of Apartheid - this is Maniben Sita.

Maniben, the daughter of Nana Sita, follows the tradition of a father who engaged in the fight for human rights with Mahatma Gandhi and who for many years was a source of inspiration to all who hate injustice in this country.

### Silencing the truth

Maniben is a fiery proponent of the truth. She speaks with an energy and a passion that makes the truth sting and which hurts all those, whites and "non-whites", who benefit from and support the oppression of other people.

It is because Maniben has the power to shame racists, opportunists and exploiters that she is now in prison. Like all those who dare to see the truth and expose it, she is treated as a criminal.

Now she, with thousands of others, is detained. It is an attempt to silence her and the voices of all those imprisoned. But incarceration of someone like Maniben proclaims the truth of oppression even more loudly than she proclaimed it herself.

### Serving God

Maniben is a devout Hindu who has been studying the

Since the state of emergency was declared, 4 300 people have been detained. 3 500 have been released and today, there are 860 people still being held. These figures exclude the detentions in areas which have not been declared emergency areas.

Nine prominent members of the Transvaal Indian Congress are still in detention. In addition, two TIC executive members, Dr Jassat and Cas Saloojee are facing treason charges.

We salute their bravery and will continue to stand by them. Maniben Sita (65) is being held at Diepkloof Prison. She is an executive member of the TIC and of the Federation of Transvaal Women. In this edition of the Congress Resister, we want to pay a special tribute to her for her strength and sacrifice for a free South Africa.

philosophy of Yoga for the past twenty years. There is nothing she would like better than to devote her whole life to meditation and the service of God. But she has sacrificed personal aspirations for the sake of serving God by fighting injustice in the community.

She lives by the principle of non-violence. Nothing is more abhorrent to Maniben than the idea of taking a life, even the life of an insect. She is a vegetarian because she does not believe in the killing of animals. She will not eat white flour or white sugar because she believes that the colour is derived from crushed bones.

Maniben was arrested on the first day of the Emergency. She was ordered off a bus returning from the funeral of Matthews Goniwe.

The bus was surrounded by about twenty policemen carrying R1 rifles. Maniben stood up to question one of

the policemen. His response was: "Sit down, you coolie bitch!" Being a disciple of Gandhi, she did not sit down but in a dignified way asked, "I have never in my life addressed anyone in such terms, why do you speak to me like this?" The policeman did not expect this, but still he was not ashamed and forced her to sit down.

We have been brought up to respect our elders. Where was his respect? How could he call a woman old enough to be his mother, a "bitch"?

This policeman, a brutalised automaton of the government, who cannot treat an elderly, defenceless woman as a human being, is the liaison between this government and the oppressed people of this country.

Now under the Emergency regulations, he has been given the power to monitor the tiniest action and the most innocent utterance of

# OF EMERGENCY NOT SMASH US



By declaring the State of Emergency, PW Botha has admitted that his reform strategy is a failure and that Apartheid rule is in a deep crisis. The Emergency is a desperate attempt on the part of the Nationalists to ensure the protection of white minority rule.

The intention of the State of Emergency is to crush the democratic movement and set our struggle back. In the past two years, the freedom loving people have made many gains. Never before has there been such widespread opposition to Apartheid policies and more and more people uniting behind the UDF and its affiliates like the TIC who are committed to bringing about a non-racial Democratic South Africa.

Through the Emergency the government wants to stop this, rescue Apartheid, prop up puppet leaders and force unacceptable solutions down our throats.

They intend to achieve this by:

\* Firstly, trying to quell the revolt in the townships. Daily the police and SADF besiege the townships and terrorise residents with teargas, shamboks, shootings and assaults. They hope to harass and intimidate the people into submission.

\* Secondly, the government has gone all out to smash our democratic organisations. Leaders have been detained, activists harassed and leaflets confiscated. There are threats that the UDF and other organisations may be banned. Presently TIC executive members Ismail Momoniat, Isu Chiba, Prema Naidoo, Ram Saloojee, Hanibhen Sita and Cassim Coovadia are still in detention.

More than half of the UDF leadership is behind bars. These include: Curnick Ndlovu (UDF Executive

president), Terror Lekota (UDF publicity secretary), Billy Nair (NIC), Pravin Gordhan (NIC), Yunus Mohamed (UDF Natal executive member).

Transvaal leaders such as Amos Mazono (Soweto Civic Association publicity secretary) and Amanda Kwadi (Fedtraw executive member) are also detained.

Despite these setbacks our people have fought on. In the midst of the State of Emergency the people on the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Natal and on the mines have not surrendered. All over the country our people have supported the call to boycott white shops. The consumer boycott strategy is proving most successful.

Many people have lost their lives since the state of emergency was declared. Children have been died, families have been left without breadwinners and mothers have been taken from their children. Mass

funerals, in some cases, have attracted up to 40 000 mourners. These funerals are the symbols of the brutality of apartheid. It is here that mourners have strengthened themselves to continue to fight on against apartheid. But we cannot stop here. We must:

\* Constantly show to our people, big business and the world that Apartheid is the enemy.

\* Intensify our struggle against the collaborators and tricameral system.

\* Ensure vigilance and discipline.

\* Stand united. We must not allow Botha to divide and rule.

\* Swell our ranks. We can only attain freedom if more and more people participate in the struggle. Workers, students, teachers, women, unemployed must all join hands.

## THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE LIVES ON

every one of us. He has been given tremendous authority yet he is not capable of simple human decency.

Maniben has probably forgiven this policeman for calling her a "coolie bitch". She knows he is the real victim of Apartheid. He has sacrificed his humanity to uphold an ungodly system. Her prayers will be more for him than for herself and her comrades in prison.

Since the elections for the Black Local Authorities and the apartheid parliaments, there has not been a day of peace in our country.

The state of emergency is now 10 weeks old. The government thought that it could silence our people and stop the unrest. Instead, the unrest has spread to other parts of the country - first to Natal, then to East London and now the Western Cape is the scene of the worst conflict since 1976.

Police brutality, the

detention of young children, the deaths, have angered our people and spurred them on to protest against the presence of troops in the townships. Such is the anger of the people that many no longer fear death. We have waged a bitter battle and have made great sacrifices.

In the Western Cape, The people fought back with a two-day work stay-away which was supported by 75% of the people. Recently, students, teachers and parents waged a campaign against Carter Ebrahim, the

Minister of "Coloured" education to re-open the schools. This was a great victory for us as Ebrahim was forced to step down. Daily, there are newspaper reports of people injured and killed by the police in the Cape.

In the Vaal Triangle where most of the leaders of the Vaal Civic Association have been charged with high treason, the people have refused to pay rentals for over a year. They have stood firm despite threats of eviction. A successful consumer boycott of white owned shops in the East Rand led to the arrest of township shop-owners.

The consumer boycott in Maritzburg was so

successful that white business was forced to negotiate with the people's leaders to end the boycott.

And, in Port Elizabeth, the consumer boycott continues unabated as more and more white shops are forced to close down. Our people are saying clearly that business must choose its side. Either they support the people's demands for freedom, or they support apartheid. There can be no middle road.

Mass stay-aways have hit our country over the past year. Since the stay-away in the Vaal Triangle in September last year, this has become a major non-violent weapon in the hands of our people.



RELEASE  
OUR  
LEADERS

