

The Pretoria Three in Mahlangu's Footsteps

- REFILWE MAILE

"One can fool half the public all the time, or all the public half the time but not all the public all the time." Indeed no nation can be oppressed forever. Resistance to the system of racial discrimination and exploitation inside our country, South Africa, has grown tremendously since the Soweto June 16 Uprisings of 1976. In the heat of the rising resistance to Apartheid, the enemy of the oppressed people is intending to crush the new revolutionary spirit of the masses. This manifests itself in the number of death sentences imposed on our patriots whose 'crime' is nothing else but that they have taken up arms to fight for the liberation of their Motherland, to fight apartheid, a system declared by the international community as a crime against humanity.

On April 6 1979, the Pretoria fascists celebrated the arrival of the so-called 'father of South Africa', the notorious Jan van Riebeeck with the blood of the young patriot, martyr and hero of our revolution, Comrade Solomon Kalushi Mahlangu. Seven months later another patriot, James Mncedisi Mange, was sentenced to death. But due to pressure by our people and the international community, the racist Pretoria government commuted the sentence to twenty years imprisonment. The enemy was not satisfied, today three more patriots - all members of the African National Congress - Comrades Johnson Lubisi, Naphtalie Manana and Tshepo Mashigo are condemned to hang in the dark dungeons of the Union Buildings fascists. All these events are a clear testimony that the Botha-Malan racist government is committed to executing our patriots.

MK COMBATANTS

The point of significance is that Comrades Mahlangu, Mange and the Pretoria Three are all combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military-wing of the ANC which has become a household name in South Africa. This reflects the escalation of armed struggle in our country. The barbarous execution of Solomon Mahlangu and the pending execution of the Pretoria Three is a sign of fear and desperation. With these death sen-

tences the enemy intends to demonstrate his power to the white voters who have been losing confidence in the racist regime since the Muldergate scandal, and above all, because of the regime's failure to destroy the ANC underground machinery. As correctly analysed by Mrs Martha Mahlangu, Solly's mother, the enemy also intends to instill fear into the militant youth of our country not to fight them (boers). This has dismally failed. The heroism and courage displayed by Comrade Solomon Mahlangu injected new revolutionary zeal and militancy into the hearts of the youth. The spirit of Solomon lives in the hearts of all the oppressed people. The enemy has failed to destroy it. What he fought and died for, is what the people are being daily murdered for by the fascist soldiers and police in the streets of Soweto, Mamelodi, Kwa-Zakhele, Langa, Kwa-Mashu, etc.

The people are aware that the three comrades sentenced to death by the racists are Solomon's comrades who are continuing with the fight for the liberation of their people. The pending execution of our patriots corroborates the inhumanity of the apartheid racist regime and further exposes its fascist character. It only serves to isolate the regime. The international community has strongly protested against the sentences imposed on our patriots. The national liberation movement headed by the ANC and its military-wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, call on progressive mankind to exert more pressure to save the lives of the freedom-loving sons of our people. The regime must be isolated by the world community thus helping in dismantling the apartheid system which is correctly declared inhuman.

PEOPLE'S HEROES

The oppressed people know their heroes and leaders, they are fully supporting the ANC and rallying behind the forces of Umkhonto we Sizwe. The people are challenging the racist illegal death sentence on the three patriots. They have nothing to do with the racist republic and racist elections. They are concerned with the release of their leaders and other political prisoners incarcerated at the notorious Robben Island prison. We, the fighting youth of South Africa, pledge to avenge the death of our patriots. With discipline, dedication and sacrifice we shall fight the racists to the bitter end.

LONG LIVE THE PRETORIA THREE!



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