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ANC members Frene Ginwala and Thenjiwe Mtintso.



Cape Town delegate Anita Chapman in conversation with Stephanie Kemp of the ANC.

Frene Ginwala stressed that the conflict has its origin in two different perceptions of South Africa — one a society divided for all time on racial and ethnic lines, the other a non-racial and democratic country.

The women identified a number of areas for action: they could continue — in their homes, families, workplaces and organisations — to break down the barriers between the races, counter the propaganda images of ANC demons and brutal Afrikaners and campaign around specific issues of injustice.

Ginwala made a moving appeal to the Afrikaner women at the conference. "The doors are wide open for you in a free South Africa," she said. "From what we know of the history of our country, there is more to your culture than an exclusive inward focus and a rejection of the rest of South Africa."

She continued: "Retrieve the best of Afrikaans culture — it is rich and the common heritage of all South Africans. You fought against injustice, colonialism and imperialism. Why did it have to stop in 1902?"

"In the three days of our discussion a chink has opened in the barriers be-

tween us. This has been a two-way process, and our understanding has been enhanced through the exchange of our personal experiences.

"We in the ANC have learnt how you see and understand words like 'violence' and 'negotiations', the SADF, what we call the 'regime' and many of you see as the legitimate government of our country.

"Most importantly, you have confirmed that there is a large and growing number of women occupying the middle ground who are genuinely concerned about the state of our society and seeking a way forward. This is the beginning of a process which encourages us.

"Some women may wish to stand aside, saying we are not responsible for creating this situation — and it is true that neither black nor white women in South Africa exercise effective political power.

"But as citizens of our country, one half of the population of South Africa, we cannot absolve ourselves from the responsibility of seeking a way out. And perhaps, precisely because we did not initiate the policies that have brought

our country to this present sorry state we may be able to open a way forward. Let us go from here and chart that way."

There was much soul-searching, on all sides, at the conference. One white liberal woman warned against the "political snobbery" which led to the exclusion of many women who would genuinely like to make a contribution to change, but do not have the impeccable credentials required by some in the mass democratic movement.

There were many ironies too. Perhaps one of the most striking was that many of the members of the internal delegation — perceiving themselves as being miles apart politically — would never have met had they not travelled to Harare. It was in this context that I overheard a leading Black Sash member tell an Afrikaner woman that, to her, one of the highlights of the conference was meeting and getting to know this particular Afrikaner woman.

As ANC veteran Ruth Mampoti put it, quaintly pronounced in Afrikaans: "Die stryd doer (duur) voort. Aluta continua."

**Ronel Scheffer**  
IDASA Director of Publications

## Monde free after 497 days in detention

**GREAT** jubilation reigned in IDASA's Port Elizabeth office on 19 April when it was learned that Monde Mtanga, the Eastern Cape regional co-ordinator, had been released from detention. Monde, who had been detained on 10 December 1987, was released after 497 days without ever having been charged. Significantly he was not served with any restrictions after his release.

Unremitting pressure for his release had been exerted, not least of all by IDASA's attorneys, who were preparing an application to be heard before the

full bench of the Eastern Cape division of the Supreme Court. Thankfully this will not be necessary now.

Monde was one of the detainees who in sheer desperation took part in the hunger-strike, calling to be either charged or released. We salute his courage and resolve and know that his irrepressible spirit will be welcomed by the Eastern Cape staff who are now finally back to their full complement.

**Keith Wattruss**  
Regional Director,  
Eastern Cape



Monde Mtanga