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ARTICLES IN DEMOCRACY IN ACTION REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF THE WRITERS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY CORRESPOND WITH THE VIEWPOINTS HELD BY IDASA.



all this information available, despite the fact that from the very beginning IDASA has appointed auditors of the highest repute and has at every level instituted very careful controls of its own to ensure that every cent received is accounted for.

Following the hunger strike by a number of detainees, I made specific representation to the Minister of Law and Order on behalf of Monde Mtanga, a member of our staff, who has now been in detention without trial for nearly 15 months. Monde was part of the hunger strike and as his friends and colleagues, we were extremely concerned. Despite the promises by the minister to release a substantial number of detainees, Monde Mtanga still languishes in jail without any recourse to the courts. Detention without trial is one of the most powerful weapons the state uses to control its opponents.

Tragic Commentary

It is clear that adjoining so-called independent countries like Ciskei have learnt their lessons well. During the last few weeks, six prominent members of the security forces and police in Ciskei have been on trial for the brutal death of a former IDASA staff member, Eric Mntonga. Details of the case and the sentences imposed upon those charged

appear elsewhere in this edition of Democracy in Action. What is clear is that those unfortunate enough to be detained without trial seem to be without any protection whatsoever. In his summing up, the judge stated that "the police, who are called upon to protect society, enjoy many privileges, being protected by the law. Security police are more privileged than other policemen in that they have a right to detain people without trial and cannot be overruled by courts". This is a tragic commentary and should surely effectively burst the bubble of euphoria which has yet again emerged as a result of further statements of intent by Heunis, de Klerk et al.

The harsh fact of the matter is that the areas open for dissent continue to shrink and democracy seems further away than ever before. This could very easily lead us into a situation of despair and thus paralysis. As far as the staff of IDASA is concerned, it will only lead us to a greater determination and to further extend and deepen our resolve and our efforts to strive for a new society where justice and the rule of law shall prevail, where there is a future for all South Africans, irrespective of race or colour or creed.

ALEX BORAINÉ,
Executive Director

IDASA se bydrae

OP 'n kongres vir vroue op Mosselbaai 'n jaar of wat gelede het 'n swart vrou opgestaan en by haar wit medekongresgangers gepleit: "Moenie julle seuns in die townships instuur om ons seuns te kom doodskiet nie."

Daar was 'n doodse stilte in die saal. Gewone Afrikaanse vroue het die swart ma geskok aangekyk. Na 'n

lang bespreking het van die vroue begin huil.

Baie wit vroue het vir die eerste keer besef: Hulle is ook mense. Ons swart susters voel dieselfde, koester dieselfde ideale vir hulle kinders en dink oor so baie dinge presies dieselfde.

Dit, sê dr Alex Borainé, is wat IDASA die afgelope twee jaar bereik het. Agter die wyd gepubliseerde

ontmoetings met die ANC en reise na Rusland het hulle bitter hard gewerk om wit en swart bymekaar uit te bring.

"Min mense besef dit vandag, maar IDASA werk hoofsaaklik met Afrikaners. Hulle is die mense met invloed in die gesagstrukture van die staat," sê Borainé, uitvoerende direkteur van IDASA.

(Met erkenning aan Vrye Weekblad)