



MILLIONS M THEIR HERO -

In a historic mass action since the 1987 Miners Strike, thousands of mi
Funeral Day - April 19. Over 120 000 people packed the FNB Stadium near S
and surrounding areas. Workers delivered yet another deadly blow causing in

Comrade General Secretary of the South African Communist Party, Chris Hani was assassinated on Saturday
as Janusz Walus who belongs to a neofascist organisation called AWB. He is at present in police Custody
Hanis' life history written by himself in 1991. In addition we have added some important excerpts from

A MESSAGE FROM NELSON MANDELA

The assassination of Chris Hani is a heinous crime against not only his person and his family, but also against the people of our country as a whole.

Those responsible for this terrible deed are demented enemies of justice, democracy and peace in our country.

It is the responsibility of the entire nation to find them and ensure that they are brought before the courts of the land to answer for this indescribable act of barbarism.

Chris has spent his life fighting for a just society. Consistent with this, he has been playing a central role in the common effort to arrive at a negotiated settlement of the problems facing our country.



During his very last days, he has been at the forefront of the campaign to end violence in the country and to encourage a spirit of tolerance among all our people and their political organisations.

He is a martyr to the cause of justice and peace. His death demands of us that we pursue that cause with even greater vigour and determination.

At this moment of unbounded grief for the whole country, our deepest sympathies go to Chris's wife, Limpho, the children and the rest of the family.

COSATU PRESIDENT JOHN GOMOMO

A Fighter for Peace, and Democracy -
Chris Hani

The Chris Hani workers know, is the one who when asked by the ANC and the SACP to submit or fight, responded by joining the ranks of MK. Through his involvement in the underground work, he championed the cause of peace by warning us not to turn the other cheek when struck by the enemy.

When he was elected to the mammoth task of General Secretary of the SACP, he proved himself a committed communist. Today he would be in Gugulethu calling for housing, tomorrow in the mines calling for an end to retrenchments, dismissals and for workers to be paid a living wage. As if that was not enough, two days later he would be in Venda calling for health improvement and later a march by teachers and students around educational needs.



Comrades Cde Chris agreed with the alliance strategy of negotiations. But he was consistent in maintaining the balance between negotiations and mass struggles. He played a leading role alongside other leaders in the rolling mass action last year, and twice marched to Bisho in support of the demands for the creation of climate for free political activity.

In honour of this hero of our struggle, I call on all of us today, workers in particular, to say to the negotiators: We want agreement on a date for holding of elections for a Constituent Assembly now!

Fidel Castro Ruz, President of Cuba

At this juncture... it is confirmed that the forces of reaction are the only ones which benefit from the political violence to which the South African people are daily submitted. The survival of sectors and forces contrary to the elimination of the racial segregation regime, even at the price of such a heinous crime, also confirms that - although the future looks promising - the anti-apartheid movement will have to wage great battles and face unforeseeable obstacles.

CHI IN HIS

Chris Hani, born on 28 June 1942, in Cofimvaba, Transkei. General Secretary of the SACP since December 1991, and ANC NEC member since 1974. Matriculated at Lovedale, 1958; Universities - Rhodes and Fort Hare 1951-61, BA Latin and English. Joined ANC Youth League 1957. Active in Eastern and Western Cape ANC, before leaving S.A. in 1962. Commissar in the Lutuli detachment joint ANC/ZAPU military campaign 1967, escaped to Botswana, returned from Botswana to Zambia 1968, infiltrated S.A. in 1973 and then based in Lesotho. Left Maseru for Lusaka 1982 after several unsuccessful assassination attempts. Commissar and Deputy Commander of Umkhonto we Sizwe, armed wing of ANC, 1984. Chief of Staff, MK 1987.

The following brief autobiographical account was written by comrade Chris Hani in February 1991:

"I was born in a small rural town in the Transkei called Cofimvaba. This town is almost 200 kilometres from East London. I am the fifth child in a family of six. Only three of us are still surviving, the other three died in their infancy. My mother is completely illiterate and my father semi-literate. My father was a migrant worker in the mines in the Transvaal, but he subsequently became an unskilled worker in the building industry.

Life was quite harsh for us and we went through some hard times as our mother had to supplement the family budget through subsistence farming, and had to bring us up with very little assistance from my father who was always away working for the white capitalists.

TOURN MOURN DEATH OF MASSIVE STAYAWAY

Mineworkers joined millions of South Africans to mourn the death of their hero by staying away from work on Hani's birthday for Hani's night vigil and funeral service, while thousands others flooded Elspark Cemetery in Germiston causing incalculable harm to the ailing apartheid economy which fuels the racist Pretoria regime.

On 10 April at his home in Dawnpark near Boksburg. The alleged murderer is a white man of Polish origin known as Chris Hanlon, now facing murder charges. As a tribute by South African Mineworkers, NUM News publishes Comrade Chris Hanlon's own statements made by ANC President, Nelson Mandela and other leaders on the coldblooded murder of Chris Hani.

CHRIS HANI OWN WORDS

I had to walk twenty kilometres to school every five days and then walk the same distance to church every Sunday. At the age of eight I was already an altar boy in the Catholic church and was quite devout. After finishing my primary school education I had a burning desire to become a priest but this was vetoed by my father.

In 1954, while I was doing my secondary education, the apartheid regime introduced Bantu Education which was designed to indoctrinate Black pupils to accept and recognise the supremacy of the white man over the blacks in all spheres. This angered and outraged us and paved the way for my involvement in the struggle. The arraignment for Treason of the ANC leaders in 1956 convinced me to join the ANC and participate in the struggle for freedom. In 1957 I made up my mind and joined the ANC Youth League. I was fifteen then, and since politics was proscribed at African schools, our activities were clandestine. In 1959 I went over to university at Fort Hare where I became openly involved in the struggle, as Fort Hare was a liberal campus. It was here that I got exposed to Marxist ideas and the scope and nature of the racist capitalist system. My conversion to Marxism also deepened my non-racial perspective.

My early Catholicism led to my fascination with Latin studies and English literature. The studies in these two courses were gobbled up by me and I became an ardent lover of English, Latin and Greek literature, both modern and classical. My studies of literature further strengthened my hatred of all forms of oppression, persecution and obscurantism. The action of

tyrants as portrayed in various literary works also made me hate tyranny and institutionalised oppression.

In 1961 I joined the underground South African Communist Party as I realised that National liberation, though essential, would not bring about total economic liberation. My decision to join the Party was influenced by such giants of our struggle like Govan Mbeki, Braam Fischer, J.B. Marks, Moses Kotane, Ray Simons, etc.

In 1962, having recognised the intransigence of the racist regime, I joined the fledgling MK. This was the beginning of my long road in the armed in which there have been three abortive assassination attempts against me personally. The struggle, has brought about the present crisis of apartheid. In 1967 I fought together with Zipra forces in Zimbabwe as political commissar. In 1974 I went back to South Africa to build the underground and I subsequently left for Lesotho where I operated underground and contributed in the building of the ANC underground inside our country.

The four pillars underpinning our struggle have brought about the present crisis of the apartheid regime. The racist regime has reluctantly recognised the legitimacy of our struggle by agreeing to sit down with us to discuss how to begin the negotiations process. In the current political situation, the decision by our organisation to suspend armed action is correct and is an important contribution in maintaining the momentum of negotiation. ”

Chris Hani, February 1991



Grief stricken family of Chris Hani, two young daughters and their mother Limpho.

COMRADE JOE SLOVO - SACP CHAIRMAN

It was for the cause of the workers and the poor, that Comrade Chris took up arms. It was for them that he crossed the Zambezi with MK to fight in the Wankie campaign in 1967.

It was for this cause that he was the first ANC NEC member in the 1970s to return to SA and operate in the underground.

Chris Hani always led from the front in the MK, in the underground, at Bisho last year. Chris Hani was not a headquarters leader, but a field commander (and not just in the military sense). He never expected anyone to do anything he was not prepared to do himself. He was a rare combination of different strengths:

- he was an intellectual who could speak the language of the poor;
- he knew how to lead, and he knew how to follow;
- he was a revolutionary who did not confuse revolution with noise;
- by nature, he was the most peaceful, the most humane person. He hated unnecessary violence and cruelty.

Above all, and let us never forget it, Comrade Chris was a Communist. A true Communist. He stood for socialism. For him Communism wasn't only a



theory. It wasn't big words. For him, communism was:

- jobs for the jobless
- homes for the homeless
- a living wage for the workers
- hope for the youth
- a life of dignity for the old
- free health care and decent education for us all.

This is what he stood for, and for this he died. Throughout the world, for the wretched of the earth, the Party which Hani led has become a shining beacon.

**LET US HONOUR THE MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COMRADE
LET US BUILD A POWERFUL COMMUNIST PARTY**