

national union of south african students
nasionale unie van suid-afrikaanse studente

NUSAS

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TO: OVERSEAS NATIONAL UNIONS
OVERSEAS STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILS
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

Dear All

You will, no doubt, have heard by now of the shocking and brutal attack by the South African Police on a group of about 200 - 300 students of the University of Cape Town who were protesting on the steps of St George's Anglican Cathedral on Friday, June 2. The protest followed the arrest the day before of a group of 50 students (including the President of NUSAS, Paul Pretorius) outside the Houses of Parliament. The students on both occasions were protesting against the Apartheid System in general and against Apartheid Education in particular.

The attack on the students has caused a massive outcry in South Africa - copies of the South African English newspapers have already been airmailed to overseas students' unions. At a meeting in the Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, almost 2000 people gathered to express their opposition to the brutal police activity.

Probably the most valuable result of Friday's police action was that it was by White police against White citizens. Whites have been subjected to the treatment meted out daily to the Blacks in this country - perhaps something worthwhile will come of it.

National student protests have been mounted at all NUSAS-affiliated campuses. A massive student and public protest took place at St Georges Cathedral on Monday when between 15 000 and 20 000 people gathered at 1.00 pm. At 12.55 pm, the police read out a notice banning the meeting in terms of the Riotous Assemblies Act. The government proclamation declared the meeting unlawful until midnight on Monday. This order has since been extended for a further twenty-four hours. Police used tear gas and mace to clear the streets and 68 arrests were made, including the Dean of the Cathedral, the very Rev E.L. King.

Students at the University of Cape Town are continuing their protests and another stand at St Georges Cathedral, a march and a mass rally are planned over the next few days.

1400 students at the University of the Witwatersrand marched illegally on Monday through the streets of Johannesburg. The march was broken up by the police and 28 students were arrested. Meetings on Wits campus were banned during Monday under the Riotous Assemblies Act. A meeting involving the entire University is planned for Wednesday.

Rhodes University students marched illegally on Tuesday morning and 200 were arrested. The University of Natal has called a number of mass meetings which have drawn huge numbers of students. Demonstrations have also been held in Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

The boycott by Black students continues. 500 students at the University of the North have again gone on strike after the university administration refused to admit 22 of the 1146 students expelled nearly a month ago. 600 students are out on strike at the University of Zululand. The University of Fort Hare has been the scene of lengthy protest over the past two weeks, but students have now returned to lectures. 800 students have been expelled from the University of Durban-Westville, Springfield Training College and the M.L. Sultan Technical College in Durban. The Transvaal College of Education students are also out on strike. 250 students were suspended yesterday.

The protests look as though they will still last a fairly long time - the government has failed to crush the spirit of the students. If anything, students are now more determined than ever to press on; but we can expect further government strong-arm tactics.

We shall keep you informed.

PAUL PRETORIUS
PRESIDENT

RENFREW CHRISTIE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT

BARRY STREEK
VICE PRESIDENT, NUSED

JEANETTE CURTIS
VICE PRESIDENT, NUSWEL

JOHN FRANKISH
VICE PRESIDENT, AQUARIUS