

RECEIVED 14 APR 1977

**Role of Riot Police**  
**in the**  
**Burnings and Killings**  
**Nyanga            Cape Town**  
**Christmas            1976**

Issued by  
**THE MINISTERS' FRATERNAL OF LANGA, GUGULETU, AND NYANGA.**

From the Christian Institute of Southern Africa  
in Europe, Horet Kleinschmidt.

Dear friends,

I have just received the enclosed document in my office and believe it to be of such importance that I had it duplicated and mailed to you immediately. It has, according to my informant also been delivered to all members of the South African Parliament.

The statements are shocking in themselves, but it seems important to put the record straight, namely that the violence in Cape Town over the Christmas period was provoked by Riot Police and not, as is very often believed and as was reported in certain press media, caused by tribal differences.

Mrs. D.M. (contd.)

"I saw the Riot Policeman beckon with his arm, and a large group of Migrants came running. The Riot Policeman pointed them to Mr. M. on the ground and then left, as the Migrants came and killed him with their weapons..

"The Migrants carried sticks and axes. Some had petrol bombs; and I saw them throwing them into houses, setting them alight. The Riot Police never made any attempt to intervene and stop the violence, instead they came in with guns and opened the way for the Migrants; instigating a group of them to attack us".

Mr. S.T. Police shoot at People seeking to save Mr. D. of Nyanga.

"When the cry went up that we were being attacked, we came up the road towards the Post Office and Shops, to defend our area. We were in time to see Mr. D. Trying to flee from a group of Migrants.

"As we came to save him, the Riot Squad accompanying the Migrants shot at us, and we were halted - they held us back with guns pointing at us. Mr. D. was dragged from the fence he was trying to climb and hacked about the head.

"I spoke to the Riot Squad in shock and amazement, asking why they let the man be killed like this. They never answered, instead one said "Laat hom vrek".

Mr. D. was then taken to Hospital. We hear that the Lord has saved him from actually dying.

"Why did the Riot Squad let the Migrants come all this way into our area? We were protecting our homes and they were shooting at us. We had been told to return to our homes because otherwise the Migrants might think we were attacking them. We co-operated with this request and then the police let the Migrants come and attack us, and actually helped them by shooting at us.

"The Police encouraged the violence!

Mr. D. would never have been hurt and nearly killed if the Police had not shot at us."

Mrs. G. of Zuelitsha, Nyanga. Police shot woman in house and let Migrants burn it down.

"On Sunday, 26th December at about 2 p.m. the Police told Residents in our area to go back to their houses, as there was no danger. We returned to the houses - I myself went into a friends house, No... a few doors down in the same block as my own house.

"About ½ an hour later there were shouts that the Police and Migrants were attacking us. We bolted the door and I went to the window to close the curtains. I saw Riot Police and Migrants inside the front yard. I was shot in the chest and arms by a Riot Policeman.

"The Migrants then started to batter down the door. My two daughters dragged me into a toilet at the back, where we hid, until we thought the Police and Migrants had passed. Our houses were burning - there was fire everywhere.

"We went to the road, where I was picked up by a resident driving a van, and taken to Tigersberg hospital. I heard later that my husband had been killed in our own front yard, a few doors along, House No...."

/ Mr. G.B. ...