

STATEMENT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF DAVID WEBSTER.

Every affiliate of the United Democratic Front salutes our fallen Comrade, David Webster. His memory ranks with that of the greatest of fallen heroes of the liberation movement. His name will be placed side by side with that of Matthew Goniwe, Solomon Mahlangu, Joe Qqabi, Victoria Mxenge, Sicelo Dhlomo and others.

We view the assassination of Comrade Webster as part and parcel of the ongoing attempt to crush the freedom movement in this country. We view it as the actions of a desperate minority, who at the sight of a Democratic South Africa looming on the horizon, become more brutal and vicious.

The ordinary people of this country have a strong suspicion that Comrade Webster's assassin is a member of the police force. Anybody who has his ear to the ground will know this is what is being said in the streets of Yeoville and Soweto.

The investigations conducted by the police will be under scrutiny of thousands - we want to know who the assassins are.

This is not the first time that a leading member of the UDF is assassinated. Many leadership, and rank and file members of the UDF have died at the hands of apartheid's assassins over the past few years. We also painfully recall that Comrade Peter Nchabaleng, our Northern Transvaal President, like many others, died in detention.

Comrade Webster was a very carefully chosen target. His cold blooded murder is meant to serve as a warning to the increasing number of whites who are daring to associate themselves in word and deed with the oppressed people of the country. This is so because the racist minority trembles at the sight of an increasing number of whites deserting the laager and entering the ranks of the Mass Democratic Movement.

We fear that more and more of our leaders are going to be assassinated. In particular we fear for the lives of the hundreds of restricted people who are simply sitting ducks.

It must be made clear that this tragic event strengthens our resolve to escalate the struggle against apartheid. The freedom struggle is today all pervasive and firmly rooted amongst the mass of the students, workers, youth, women and professionals. No amount of detentions, political imprisonment, deaths in detention and assassinations can reverse this situation.

§We call on Mr Vlok not to restrict or ban this funeral. Restricting it, would be a sign of his contempt of Webster even as he lies in his coffin. It is intended that an orderly and peaceful service and burial would be held. We ask the police to respect the many heavy- hearted mourners by not forbidding them from attending the funeral.

Mohammed Valli Moosa.

Acting genral Secretary -United Democratic Front.