

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITESI APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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UDF PRESS STATEMENT RELEASE THE SHARPEVILLE SIX

The UDF calls on State President PW Botha to exercise his presidential prerogative to save the lives of the "Sharpeville Six" who are now facing the gallows after the Appellate Division's decision to dismiss their death sentence appeal.

In considering cases such as this it will always be an oversight and a serious error to regard the conduct of the trialists in isolation from the political conflict in our country.

The UDF wishes to make it clear to Mr Botha and his subordinate authorities that it is the oppression of black people by apartheid that is the main source of political violence in South Africa. It is apartheid that is the violent system and it is apartheid that eventually begets responsive violence from its victims. It is apartheid that has been declared by the UN as a crime against humanity, and if it were not for this criminal system these six South Africans would not now be sitting on death row.

The causes behind the conflict and events around September 3 in the Vaal are complex, and the sentencing to death of six residents caught up in events will do nothing to address the grievances and demands of Sharpeville residents.

Every political execution that takes place is an act of terror against South Africa's voteless majority. The UDF therefore repeats its call for the lifting of the death sentence - not only the Sharpeville Six - but in all cases arising from the struggle against apartheid.

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