



UDF PRESS STATEMENT - 21/08/84

DETENTION OF UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT'S ACTIVISTS

The UDF totally condemns the detention of more than thirty (30) campaigners against apartheid in Natal, the Eastern Cape, the Transvaal and Oudtshoorn. We demand the immediate release of all these activists and the cessation of these acts of terror.

These arrests are not unexpected. Le Grange and the SABC have been conducting a daily propaganda campaign against the United Democratic Front and its affiliates. This arsenal of mass media and propaganda has totally failed to persuade the Coloured and Indian communities to support the new constitution, or to vote. This very failure shows that these communities have rejected Le Grange's allegations with the contempt they deserve.

Now that this propaganda war has failed, the government is resorting to force. They are making it clear that they are not interested in the consent of the people to their plans - they are going ahead regardless of the cost.

We are getting a glimpse of what the constitution holds in store for us. There are upheavals country-wide, riot police are roving the streets, thugs are terrorising UDF people, and now the Security Police are incarcerating respected leaders of the people. Students are boycotting schools country-wide, and the Universities are in turmoil.

These are the features of a State of Emergency. Yet the government is pressing ahead with the elections. The depth of feeling against the constitution was clearly demonstrated this week-end, when more than twenty thousand people from all sections of the population gathered at UDF Rallies around the country.

We warn the collaborators that they are totally implicated in these actions, since they have made common cause with the attack on democratic organisations. Their connivance with the smear campaign against the UDF has clearly unmasked them to our people.

The hand that makes the cross in tomorrow's elections, is also the hand which locks our leaders up in Le Grange's cells, not only today but also tomorrow. The Nationalist Party is seeking a mandate in the election to implement these types of action against the democratic movement. They are seeking a mandate to conscript people as agents of their own oppression.

We are confident that our people now, more than ever, will utterly reject these puppet elections. The UDF will not be intimidated and will continue to challenge the legitimacy of the structures the State is attempting to impose on us.

The UDF calls on all peace-loving and democratic people of South Africa and throughout the world to support our just struggle for a constitution based on the will of the people, and to defend our democratic organisations against the terror of the State.

DETAINED UDF ACTIVIST

Terror Lekota	-	UDF Publicity Secretary
Mewa Ramgobin	-	UDF National Treasurer NIC Publicity Secretary
M J Naidoo	-	NIC Vice President
George Sewpersadh	-	NIC President
Billy Nair	-	Org. Anti Elect. Comm. - Natal
Curnick Ndlovu	-	Co-ord. Million Sign. Camp - Natal
Archie Gumede	-	UDF President (National) Chairman RMC
Essop Jassat	-	President TIC & UDF Patron
Aubrey Mokoena	-	Publicity Secretary RMC & UDF Exec. member
Curtis Nkondo	-	RMC Chairman & Vice Pres. UDF Tv1
RAM Saloojee	-	TIC Vice Pres. UDF National
Prince Msuthu	-	Reg. Publicity Sec. E Cape
Bashir Hussein	-	UDF Area Com.

NELSPRUIT

Martin Mchunu
David Mabuza
Lucas Ntuli

8 People Oudtshoorn
1 Pretoria
10 Middelburg - Students