

EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN for SOUTH AFRICA

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-For A Free Southern Africa-

11 June 1984

PRETORIA STRIKES AGAIN IN NAMIBIA

Two weeks after they had been released, some of the Namibian men and women who had been held in incommunicado captivity at the Mariental camp of the South African Defence Force were detained by the South African Police.

They, members of SWAPO - including officials, and lawyers active in their behalf were detained on Saturday, 9 June, while enjoying a barbecue a few miles from Namibia's chief city, Windhoek. Some 80 armed and camouflaged men of the South African Special Police Task Force descended on a Roman Catholic seminary, seized 37 people and carried them off to various jails and prisons.

This typical Pretorian crackdown occurs while Prime Minister Pieter W. Botha is in the last days of his first political 'welcome into the family' tour of Western Europe. He has met with the British, German and Austrian premiers, visited other countries, saw the Pope this morning and confers with US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker in Rome tomorrow. The roundup in Namibia is another indication of Pretorian cocksuredness and fits a long pattern of talking and striking at the same time. It is most unlikely the Western powers will do more than fume. A spokesman for the US State Department confesses the arrests are 'embarrassing' and official/the Department deplors such actions.

A fortnight ago Pretoria freed 54 Mariental captives - after the State President had killed a court application brought by families and the Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic bishops in Namibia for the freeing of 36 of the admitted 146 Namibians imprisoned at the army camp. (Only South African officials know how many really are held there). The court reserved judgment on the applicants' plea against the State President's action. Pretoria is furious by the insistence of the applicants and by the very broaching of the issue of the Mariental captives.

Pretoria, too, is frustrated and angry by the failure of a mid-May conference held in Lusaka, Zambia, when its chosen followers inside Namibia, the Multi-Party Conference people, were shown up to be the limp entity every Namibian knows them to be.

These latest detentions are the latest - by no means the last - of the fruits of constructive engagement. Any sensible person would long ago have concluded that Pretoria has no intention of letting go in Namibia.

Secretary of State George Shultz
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Your Senators: Washington, DC 20510
Your Congress- Washington, DC 20515
Person

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NAMIBIA

The Executive Committee of the Council of Churches in Namibia meeting in Windhoek on the 10th of June 1984 condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjustifiable action of arresting 37 people on private church property on the 9th of June 1984.

The people detained were at the time involved in a braaivleis (barbecue) celebrating the release of prisoners from the concentration camp at Mariental after six years of detention.

We are shocked that such unchristian action can be taken on behalf of a so-called 'Christian' government on the eve of the Day of Pentecost.

Such actions serve only to further poison the attitudes and relationships of people in our country.

We, therefore, demand the immediate release of all detained and furthermore call for the full clearance of their names.

THE DETAINED

- Mr Nathaniel Maxuilili, SWAPO acting president inside Namibia
- Mr Daniel Tjongarero, SWAPO deputy chairman inside Namibia
- Rev Ervin Tjirimuje, African Methodist Episcopal pastor
- Hartmut Ruppel, Esq - lawyer
- Mr Salomon Khamatama
- Mr Abraham Witbooi
- Ms Gertrude Kandaga
- Ms Elina Ndapuka
- Ms Josefina Shangala
- Mr Ithete Gabriel
- Mr Gregorius Makone
- Mr Abraham Shafinwene
- Mr Erasmus Endjala
- Mr Abner Xoagub
- Mr Phillip Tjerije
- Ms Anna Christiaan
- Mr Jason Angula
- Mr Andreas Themba
- Mr Oxurub, Damara Council
- Mr Nico Bessinger, SWAPO foreign affairs secretary in Namibia
- Mr Frans Kambangula, SWAPO secretary of transport inside Namibia
- Rev Bartholomeus Karuaera, African Methodist Episcopal pastor
- Anton Lubowski, Esq - lawyer
- Mr Immanuel Ngatjizeko
- Ms Petrina Witbooi
- Ms Margaret G. Joagmang
- Ms Rosaline Namises
- Mr Joshua Hoebel
- Mr Naftali Uirab
- Mr Rahimise Kahimise
- Mr Marthin Kapewasha
- Mr Jerry Ekandjo
- Mr Paul Elliot Hiskia
- Mr Peter Nanjemba
- Mr Abraham Shikwambi
- Mr Albin Ilovu
- Mr Jéfta Maharero

These Namibians detained by the security police on 9 June 1984 are being held in various prisons and jails in Namibia.

Your Senators: Washington, DC 20510
Your Congress - Washington, DC 20515
Person

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