

First World Anti-Apartheid Newsletter

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The Myth of "Tribal" Black-on-Black Violence

by Tandi Lutuli Gcabashe

(This is the first of a series of articles by Tandi Lutuli Gcabashe, who stands on her own as an anti-Apartheid activist, but who is also the daughter of former ANC President and Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Albert Lutuli.)

The U.S. media has projected the violence in Natal as a "tribal" war between Ngatasa Buthelezi's Inkatha, Zulu, and the African National Congress, which is Xhosa we are told. Beside the fact that all of these so-called different "ethnic" groups are genetic copies of each-other, it is wrong to call the violence in Natal "tribal" since Natal is overwhelmingly Zulu in composition. In fact, Ngatasa is a former ANC member himself. Buthelezi more-or-less intimated this fact, during a video message to Nelson Mandela on the Mandela/Koppel Town Meeting in New York.

The conflict in Natal stems from ideological differences, an indication of diversity in political thought and affiliation amongst Zulus. My father, Albert Lutuli, was president of the ANC from 1952 to 1967. He is Zulu, not Xhosa. At any rate, Zulu has married Xhosa, Xhosa Zulu, Pondo Tembu, Tembu Sotho and so on. All this "tribal" identity stuff has become a real mix-up now, especially with industrialization and the so-called "contract labor system" where African men can only see their wives one month out of the year.

The fact that the so-called Zulus are the largest single "ethnic" group in South Africa (6 million), does not imply that Ngatasa Buthelezi carries the majority support of Zulus. But this is the impression the U.S. media has created by presenting Buthelezi as "leader" of the Zulus while simultaneously parading the so-called Zulus as the African majority. But there are also 23 million other Black South Africans.

By similar Apartheid "logic", the White minority of South Africa suddenly became the majority in 1951, by robbing blacks of their South African citizenship and "forcibly removing" them to government reservations, inarable lands, which were "supposed-to-be" their ancestral "homeland". Well, actually our ancestral homeland is South Africa.

Buthelezi's alignment with the Apartheid Regime, with his faithful anti-sanctions position and majority facade, is one very nice combination South Africa needs in the attempt to amplify Black support for Apartheid. This alignment has meant that, if you want a job in Natal, you had better be Zulu, and with an Inkatha card. So, on the one hand, we have Buthelezi and his KwaZulu "homelands" police and Inkatha Militia. On the other, we have The United Democratic Front (UDF) and The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), who have been the main targets of Inkatha. UDF and COSATU oppose the Apartheid "government" and the "homelands policy". They work towards the eradication of the minority regime, its policies, and those Africans who, for opportunism, powerlessness or devastated minds, support Apartheid. **WHEN WHITE PEOPLE FIGHT EACH OTHER, YOU TAKE SIDES IN THE BATTLE, EVEN GOING TO THE FRONT LINES TO DIE FIRST. WHEN BLACK PEOPLE FIGHT, YOU SIT**

(see Myth page 2)



Death By Public Health: South Africa

by Oscar Beard

Consultant in African Studies

In 1990, South Africa yet has no national public health service. This follows quite logically, that is, from a psychopathological standpoint. For, with 30 million Africans and just 4.5 million Whites lurking in the wake of the Black take-over, why should there be any provision for African health, except of course, for the maintenance of an African cheap labor

force? Yet, South Africa has even been negligent in this regard. Twenty million Africans were literally worked to death by Cecil Rhodes (of Rhodes Scholars) between 1885 and 1990, digging for diamonds and gold (from conversations with Yosef Ben-Jochannan, author of Black Man of the Nile and His Family and numerous other priceless works).

Today, Black teenage girls are loaded onto trucks like cattle, and are carted off to be injected with deproprovera, a birth control drug manufactured by a U.S. corporation, Upjohn. Deproprovera has been outlawed in the U.S. This drug also causes uterine cancer, bloating and skin disease (see Rick Reed's video, Voices from Exile, Namibia's Hidden Tears, Namibia Information Service, 1988).

The health of a people is directly related to the availability of the basic necessities of food, clean water, and shelter. Under the South African Land Acts of 1913 and 1936, 87% of all land, the best of the land, was reserved for Whites only. The inarable lands (13%) with little or no clean water, were reserved for the Blacks. Over half of the Africans are kept on ten government reservations, where even subsistence farming is not feasible. Infant mortality rates on these reservations are 60, sometimes 70% by the age of five.

(see Death page 3)

BACK AND MORALIZE ABOUT BLACK-ON-BLACK!

Zulu predominance in Natal should be a testament to African unity, not a political pawn for white supremacists. After all, it was Shaka Zulu the Great himself, who has suffered his own misrepresentation by white media, who re-unified South Africans under one banner, and right amidst the spoils of European and Arab aggression in Southern Africa. Why, the idea! Just imagine Shaka as having just one wife, Western style, as shown on Shaka Zulu the movie, and just one son, whom he kills. This is unthinkable! And certainly, Shaka would never use the White man's medicine. But, regardless of Buthelezi's public condemnation of Apartheid and his non-official declaration of "independence" stance, he is still the Chief Minister of KwaZulu reservation, which is a creation of The Apartheid State.

All About "The Black-on-Black"

"Black-on-Black" violence is a misrepresentation of the situation in Natal, a deliberate distortion by the South African "government" to depict the Africans as unfit to rule the country. The propaganda line goes something like this: "You see how savagely the native fights amongst himself. How will they manage the enormous wealth and mineral resources that are so essential for the Western economies and defense systems? Western Civilization and lifestyles would be at risk if the African rules."

But "Black-on-Black" should more aptly be called Black on Apartheid. It is the Apartheid Regime that "constitutionally" and "legally" created and enforced divisions amongst Black People through the policy and tactic of "homeland" rule. It is the Apartheid Pretoria budget that "pays the piper" Ngatsa Buthelezi. The Black township of Sophiatown was literally bulldozed down in the mid-1950's due to too much Black cooperation and economic progress in the town. What was set-up in its place was Soweto, which the Apartheid Regime cordoned off along so-called "tribal" lines, with rows upon rows of matchbox type "homes".

The "hidden hand" in the instigation and staging of violent episodes in Natal can indisputably be traced to the South African Police, Special Forces and Military. Their operations have been made even more clandestine through access to the latest of IBM technology, sold by IBM to para-statal

corporations instead, so that no one can say they sold technology to the South African "government" (see Unified List of U.S. Companies Doing Business in South Africa, 3rd Edition, 1990. The Africa Fund, by Richard Knight, (212)962-1210). After September's train massacre, it was established that Whites participated, wearing black ski masks, some painting their faces black.

It is the South African "government" that created the Civil Cooperation Bureau (CCB) Death Squads, who have assassinated members of the ANC overseas as well as at home. ANC woman leader Dulcie September was gunned down in Paris in 1988. Griffith Mxenge, a Civil Rights lawyer, assassinated in 1981, and his wife in 1985, also a lawyer. Academician Ruth First was killed by letter bomb in 1982. The list goes on. This is to say nothing of the systematic violence of Apartheid, with Black infant mortality rates of 60%, sometimes 70% by the age of five on the reservations. The overall Black infant mortality rate, ages zero to four, Black townships and reservations combined is 55% (see South African Medical Journal 55:801, 1979).

It is the "government" of de Klerk that holds the reigns of power, as well as the responsibility for keeping Law and Order. When White safety and security are perceived as threatened, the regime is quick and effective in restoring order. It is when the South African Police and Military are massacring the Blacks that there will be a news black-out. On the other hand, the blood from the violence in Natal is almost literally slithering right out of your TV set.

South Africa also carries out bombings and raids on the neighboring newly independent Black Southern African States. Until the recent defeat of the South Africa Defense Force in Southern Angola, South Africa was spending 2 million dollars a day on this regional militarism. But thanks to your U.S. tax dollars, the bloodletting in Angola continues. The U.S. has recently increased its financing and supplying of Savimbi's UNITA in Angola. U.S. financing alone is now estimated at \$75 million annually (Washington Office on Africa). Angola has the highest amputee rate in the world (more than 23,000), due to explosions from Claymore Land Mines manufactured in Shreveport, Louisiana. Angola has the highest infant mortality rate in the entire world. (see "Stop U.S. Destabilization of Angola", by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., in the Sept/Oct 1990 SCLC Magazine,

Atlanta (404)524-2195, p. 110). Anything to keep the Africans from running their own government and controlling our own vast rich resources. The South African Special Forces also operate the bandit group, RENAMO in Mozambique, Southern Africa. RENAMO specializes in brutal attacks on the civilian population, destroying schools, farms and stealing food. Children are special targets for murder, or for brainwashing and counter-attack against their own parents at threat of their own death. Adults are carried off into slavery. Women and girls are subjected to multiple rapings. The cutting out of tongues, ears, noses and castration are favorite mutilations to instill greater fear. Civilian water supplies are poisoned.

Contrary to popular misconception, the U.S. is heavily involved in militarism and exploitation of Blacks in the Southern Africa region. The U.S. would like to be able to handpick Black presidents in Southern Africa, after ousting the progressive ones. This is all being done under a facade of anti-Communism, a position at least "officially" opposed by the United Nations. That is, the U.N. position is that the main threat to peace and security in Southern Africa is not Communism, but the Apartheid System. U.S. involvement in Southern Africa goes back to the 1790's (see Prexy Nesbitt's, Apartheid In Our Living Rooms, Midwest Research, Chicago, 1987).

In Conclusion

Can negotiations work in South Africa? They stand to be stalled or completely derailed by the escalation of the situation in Natal. Releasing a relatively few political prisoners (there are 1500 others) while fanning the fires of Natal, is just another example of double dealing by the Apartheid Regime. (see the Dec/Jan 1991 issue of the First World Anti-Apartheid Newsletter for Tandi's total analysis of the prospects for negotiated settlement).

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(Death from page 1)

15,000 to 30,000 African children perish annually of starvation or other malnourishment illnesses (Kwasikor, the bloated belly). The wide range of these figures indicates the lack of ongoing research as to the health of Blacks.

Made feeble by malnutrition, South Africa's Black children are succumbing to such curable diseases as measles and gastroenteritis. Thousands die each year. Only 3% of practicing doctors in South Africa are on the reservations. Lebowa reservations has only one doctor for every 20,000 to 30,000 residents. There is at least one doctor for every 875 White South Africans (see Cedric de Beer's, The South African Disease: Apartheid Health and Health Services, Africa World Press, Inc., 1986).

Cholera broke out in the Kangwane reservation in the mid-1980's, and now has spread to other reservations. Besides being worked to death or starved to death, tuberculosis has traditionally been South Africa's number one health hazard.

The evidence shows that TB was brought to South Africa by Whites (de Beer, p. 3). There was no TB in South Africa prior to the 1800's. It was rare until the 1890's, with the discovery of gold in the Transvaal in 1886. The damp, dusty, poorly ventilated and exhaustive underground conditions of gold mining promoted the spread of tuberculosis. By 1860, there had been outbreaks of TB wherever there were military, missionary or trading stations. Yet, so long as the African population was healthy (still farming in those days), TB could lay dormant in the body.

It was the "master mind" of Cecil Rhodes who, as Prime Minister of South Africa from Capetown, had forced the African into the "employ" of the White man through the imposition of a series of exorbitant taxes; a poll tax before the Black vote was abolished, a hut tax, and even a tax on having a dog. The African male was denied even the dignity of hunting to feed his family once his farm had been wrestled from him through White militarism, or later by official edict. Cecil Rhodes is said to have seized some lands simply by demonstrating the destructive capability of his Maxim Machine Gun. He developed a whim for going to an African village, and mowing down a cornfield with the gun (from Barbara Villet's, Blood River, Everest House, New York, 1982). Ironically, the Maxim Machine Gun was based upon a Black invention, the so-called Gatlin Gun, actually invented by E.R. Lewis during the Spanish American War.

But it is the African who is dying of tuberculosis today. Only 1% of verified cases occur to Whites. Some estimated 100,000 TB cases go untreated yearly. African miners, under the so-called "contract labor system" only get to see their families on the reservation one month out of the year. But this becomes an optimum time to spread the TB bacillae to an already unhealthy population. African miners frequent the Black townships. The incidence of TB in the Transkei reservation has been said to be amongst the highest in Africa (SAMJ, 1974). Each Year, over 50,000 new cases of TB are reported in South Africa.

The Spread of Aids

Though the discrediting of the claim of an African origin of AIDS may be a strategic socio-political victory for Black people, if anyone is aware of it (see Richard and Rosalind Chirimuuta, AIDS, Africa and Racism, Bretyb House, U.K., 1987), AIDS, however it is introduced to an already sickly population, is bound to spread like wildfire.

One of the few studies dealing with the spread of AIDS among Blacks in South Africa is G.N. Padayachee and R. Schall, "Short-term Predictions of the Prevalence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infections Among the Black Population in South Africa", South African Medical Journal, vol. 77, April 7, 1990.

Though one must approach the topic of the purported spread of AIDS in Africa with a great deal of caution (the Ugandans are yet alive and well, having been forecast in 1984 for virtual annihilation by AIDS by this time), one cannot help but be concerned about South Africa. An earlier work, by a Zimbabwean scientist, Davis Gazi, provides some insights into the African Aids picture; The Facts and Myths of Aids, a pamphlet. You may contact the publisher of First World Anti-Apartheid Newsletter for this work.

With the Padayachee study, as in the early '80s, we run into the problem of base data. This problem is made even more difficult due to the fact of no national public health service in South Africa. But, one would have to concede that tests for AIDS are rather more reliable today.

According to Padayachee, the number of Black South Africans between the

ages of 15 and 49 who were HIV-infected by the end of 1989, was between 45,000 and 63,000. This is based upon an infection doubling time of 8.5 months, which the study states with a 95% "confidence" based upon established forecasting methods. It is thereby predicted that there will be an increase in HIV-infected Blacks to between 119,000 and 168,000 by the end of this year. The figure should be between 317,000 and 446,000 by the end of 1991. All of this, of course, presumes that infection patterns in these forthcoming AIDS cases will be similar to those to date. This is called "back calculation". Key factors effecting the reliability of back-calculation are the accuracy of the incubation period, and the reliability of base data.

The study seems to take some consolation in the fact that AIDS forecasting, even in countries as the U.S., with national public health services and more reliable data, has been as much as in 200% error.

In Conclusion

How many Black South Africans should there actually be today, if it were not for the fact of all this systematic murder and
(see Death page 4)

THANKS to our patrons !

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Death (from page 3)

madness? What are the limitations on a population that has been loosing over 50% of its children, potential parents, and their children's children potential parents, year after year after year since roughly 1948? Is this not clearly the most efficient human destruction machine in World History? Do we need to get out the calculator? Certainly, it is going to be some sort of geometric progression, not just addition and subtraction.

Do you want to do anything to stop this plague? Can you really sleep soundly at night knowing that there is a monster out there devouring up people by the tens of millions? Can you still feel content in spending your hard-earned dollars in such a way as to benefit such a scale of human decimation and destruction as this? NO! Resoundingly NO! Contact the publisher of this newsletter to learn how you can get involved.

Your \$\$\$\$ in the Apartheid Kitty: Things to Boycott

Below, you will find a sampling of products and/or companies still doing business in South Africa. The source of this information is Richard Knight's Unified List of United States Companies Doing Business in South Africa, 3rd Edition, The Africa Fund, 198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038, 1990, (212)962-1210.

Boycott all gold and diamond jewelry...all Japanese cars and electronics equipment, Japan is South Africa's #1 trading partner...all Coca Cola products...Sears & Roebuck makes uniforms for the South Africa Police and Special Forces...Boycott Shell Oil, South Africa's #1 supplier, very strategic since South Africa does not have its own domestic oil supply...Dean Witter Reynolds...Bridgestone Corp/Firestone Tire & Rubber Co...Bristol-Meyers Squibb Co...British Petroleum Co...Budget Rent-A-Car...Cadbury Schweppes...Chase Manhattan Corporation...Chevron Corp/Caltex Petroleum...Citicorp/Citibank ...Colgate-Palmolive... Emery Worldwide...Purolator Courier Corp...Encyclopedia Britannica...Ford Motor Co...Gerber Products...General Electric Co...General Motors...Gillette Co...Goodyear Tire & Rubber...International Playtex, Inc...ITT Corp...Jordache Enterprises, Inc...Johnson & Johnson Co...Kellogg Co...Marriott Corp...Motorola Corp...Nestle...Proctor & Gamble...Prudential Insurance Co of America (get off the rock)...Reader's Digest Association (good vocabulary list, that's it) ...Sherwin-Williams Co... Sony Corp/Columbia Pictures Entertainment, Inc...TWA...Upjohn Co...Westinghouse Electric Corp...Xerox Corp.

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