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2000 in student detention protest

Political Reporter

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The students later braved rain to picket along the Jan Smuts Avenue entrance to the university after hearing their principal, Professor G. R. Bozzolli, tell them that the detentions had aroused even the most sluggish conscience on the 10 000-strong campus.

Professor Bozzolli told the protest meeting, which focused on the continued detention under the Terrorism Act of Mr. Mohammed Essop and Mr. N. C. Naick, that those detainees already released had, in effect, served a term of imprisonment without ever having been convicted by a court.

"I wonder who in fact are the terrorists in the country," he said.

Professor John Dugard, Professor of the University's Law School, said the Terrorism Act was "a forensic monster, sired by the previous 90-Day Detention Law."

APATHY

He said that Mr. Essop and Mr. Naick were above all the victims of White apathy. All too often the Security Police became the scapegoats of this apathy.

"They are only as powerful and brutal as White public opinion permits," he said.

Of the detainees he said: "We must not consent in the least degree to their unknown punishment in their unknown cells."

Mr. John Kane-Berman, research officer of the South African Institute of Race Relations, told the students that the Terrorism Act had been placed on the statute book because the great majority of Whites were committed to maintaining a system of minority rule which could never survive a democratic test.

At a conservative estimate, some 2000 people had been banned, house-arrested, or detained without trial over the past 10 years.

Urging the students to con-



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protest

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At a conservative estimate, some 2 000 people had been banned, house-arrested, or detained without trial over the past 10 years.

Urging the students to continue their protests, he said: "There are people — for example the Ovambos in South West Africa — who have made far greater sacrifices than we have in the assertion of their rights and their humanity."

● Police arrested an armed man at yesterday's picket protest on Jan Smuts Avenue.

Police and students confirmed that the man was armed with a revolver. He was arrested after he stopped his car in front of the picket line to remonstrate with students over the wording on some of their placards.

(Report by A. Holiday, 171 Main Street, Johannesburg.)



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