



# H.R.C. BULLETIN

JUNE 26 1975

## TWO DAYS OF HISTORY

The Human Rights Committee congratulates the people of Mozambique on their independence celebrations of yesterday, June 25. We celebrate with them in spirit and solidarity.

Their struggle was filled with courage and deeds of history. And their administration, since Frelimo took charge of the provisional transitional government in september last year has been a model of efficiency and enlightenment.

The historic 25th June brings into focus another historic day - June 26th, Freedom Day in South Africa.

HRC Bulletin will report on various historic events and anniversaries in its coming issues. To start the series, this issue examines June 26th.

### COP

June 26 is the 20th anniversary of the Congress of the People, at which the Freedom Charter was adopted. Planned during 1954, the COP was called by the Congress alliance - the African National Congress, South African Indian Congress, South African Coloured Peoples' Organization and the S.A. Congress of Democrats.

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### MOZAMBIQUE

It started almost unannounced, the war to liberate Mozambique from Portuguese colonialism, in 1964, and it made little impression on the world's Press, for these were the early days of Vietnam.

By 1968, however, crash plans were announced by the Portuguese to "open up the northern areas", including

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For months before the meeting, invitations were widely distributed to various organisations and groups of workers. The people were asked to form local committees to discuss their grievances and their ideas of how the country should be governed. They were asked to draw up lists of suggestions and demands, which were to be sent to the central committee by a certain date, and also to elect delegates to represent them at the Congress of the People. When they had received the numerous resolutions, suggestions and demands, the central committee drafted a Freedom Charter.

The Congress of the People took place over June 25 and 26 1955, when approximately 3 000 delegates gathered at Kliptown, Johannesburg, to discuss the draft charter. There were doctors and domestic workers, labourers and clerks, shopkeepers and students, housewives and teachers - Africans, Whites, Indians, and Coloureds.

#### ALLEGATIONS

Many of the people came from as far afield as Durban and Cape Town, and there were allegations that quite a number of them had been stopped by police on the way, some of them being held on trivial charges and refused permission to continue.

At the meeting, the ANC colours dominated the scene, with bright banners proclaiming the identity of the branch or carrying slogans. Mounted behind the platform was the freedom wheel with its four spokes - the ANC's African elephant; the SAIC's Indian fox; SACPO's Coloured horse and the European owl of the COD. Also present were delegations from the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) and the S.A. Federation of Women, both of whom played an active part in the Congress of the People.

#### BRANCH

While the meeting, surprisingly enough, had not been banned by the Nationalist government, the Special Branch were very prominent observers - taking numerous photographs of delegates and recording every word. Most of the top leaders of the Congress Alliance were absent because of bannings, but Chief Luthuli sent a message and there were fraternal greetings from all parts of the world.

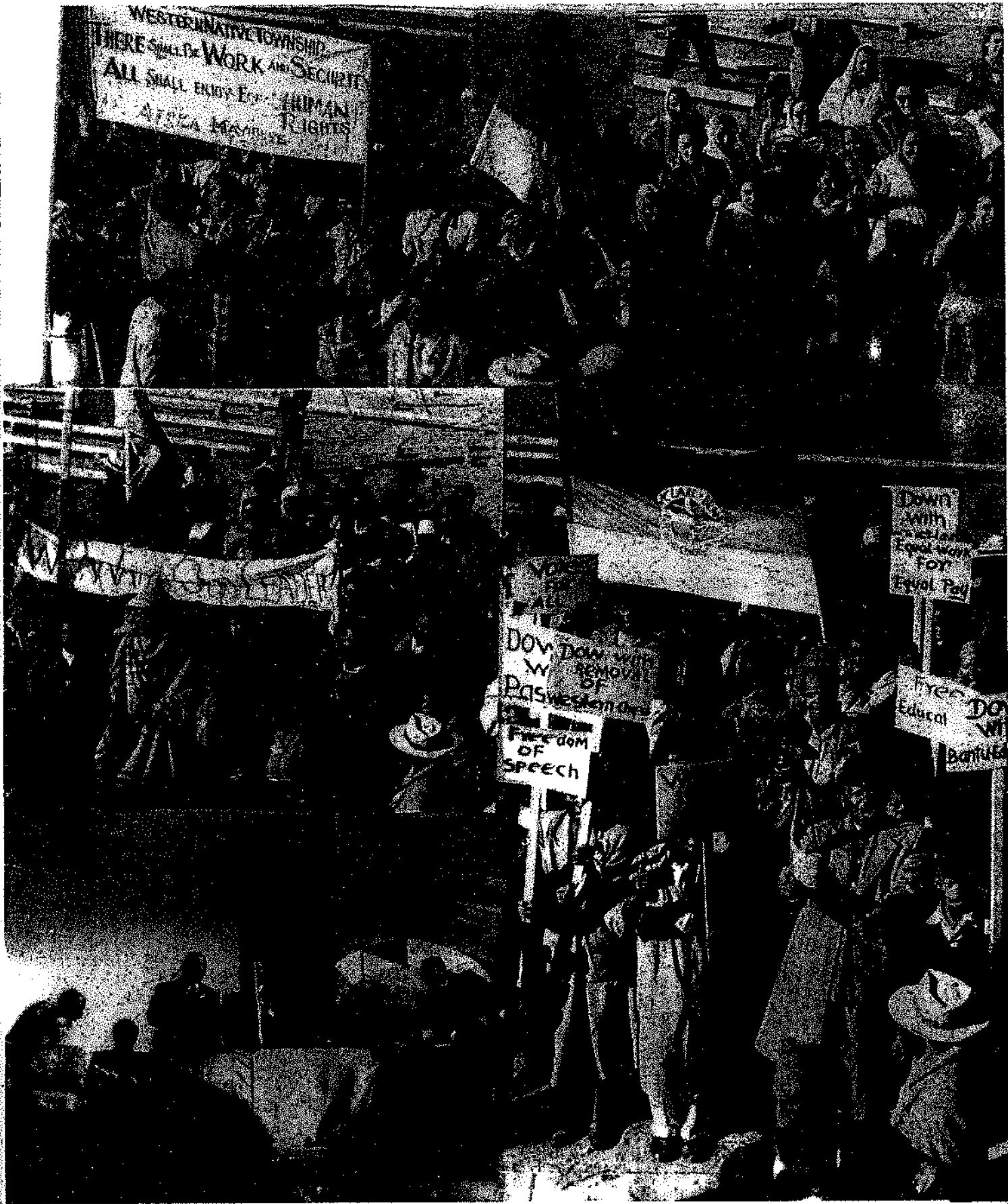
Throughout the Congress, the delegates listened to the speeches, the messages and a Freedom Charter read out in English, Sesotho and Xhosa. On the second day of the Congress, there was a raid by 200 armed policemen, Black and White. The chairman of the meeting was presented with a search warrant stating that they were "investigating a charge of treason"

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# SCENES FROM THE C O P



and had come to search for "inflammatory or subversive" literature.

The police then proceeded to search all the delegates, took names and addresses and removed speakers' notes, goodwill messages and any other papers they found. In the meantime, the meeting went on, with delegates debating each clause of the Charter. When the final draft had been adopted, every one of the delegates present stood up and joined in the singing of "Afrika Mayibuye", and the singing continued until the police ended their raid.

Finally, as darkness fell, the Congress of the People came to an end, with the nostalgic notes of "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika" hanging in the air.



This is the second newsletter of the Human Rights Committee. Please pass it on to your friends, because it is vital that it reaches the greatest number of people possible.

We would welcome letters and comment.

Write to Secretary,  
Sheila Weinberg  
P.O. Box 79051  
SENDERWOOD - 2145.

WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER ISSUES AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME!

## MOZAMBIQUE

Cabo Delgado and Niassa, using 25000 troops. There were no hard estimates of Frelimo's strength in the field. The name was still a new one to the world.

It achieved little, and the Governor-General, Mr Pimental dos Santos, outlined a new plan, which he said would produce a "miracle for all the world to see". He said, confidently, "the Frelimo war effort in Niassa had collapsed, adding there had been "a reduction of terrorist activity in Cabo Delgado."

### BURNT ALIVE

As with all wars, massacre reports began circulating. Out of the sweaty bush in the north, came the report of two priests: Portuguese troops had jailed men, women and children in their huts and burnt them alive. The priests, who said they had assisted in the burials afterwards, were tried, convicted, and later smuggled out of the country as White settler anger boiled up against them.

Frelimo's strength grew, on the lines of the war of the flea, as the popular masses supported the men bearing arms.

By January 1974 Lisbon was forced to admit the situation was critical and four-star general Costa Gomes, Portugal's top soldier, was flown in to take control.

The war had by then taken shape: two prongs from the Tanzanian border to the north going straight down southwards, and two prongs from the Zambian border to the north-west, stretching south-east towards the coast.

Between Zambia and Tanzania lies the north-south corridor of southern Malawi, freely used for lines of communication between both sides.

Gomes had hardly got started; when Frelimo hit the west-east rail line between Umtali in Zimbabwe and Beira on the coast, which roughly divided the country in half.

Prevented by a strict censorship from knowing how the war was going, the Portuguese settler population found these attacks a shattering blow to morale.

So did the army. But by the time the Portuguese had rallied, Frelimo was pushing hard on the next line, the Save River, still further south. It was obvious that Frelimo's 9000 armed fighters had broken Portugal's army of 65000. But before the final battle lines had been drawn political events overtook the war.

#### MACHEL

The Portuguese revolution on April 25 last year produced a promise to end the war and negotiate a political settlement.

Days that made history followed.

On July 29, 1974, the civilians and army officers invited Frelimo troops into Tete to a welcoming feast.

On September 17 Samora Machel and Portuguese Foreign Minister Soares began talks in Dar es Salaam on the hand-over of power to the people of Mozambique. The war was all but over.

But the shooting was not, for in Lourenco Marques a group of white reactionaries planned and executed an abortive coup against the Frelimo provisional government.

This led to rioting with 103 deaths.

Later a Portuguese soldier pushed an African boy wearing a Frelimo shirt, sparking off fresh riots in which 49 died.

In spite of these incidents the Frelimo transitional government has administered Mozambique with an efficiency that won the admiration of the international community.

The only way this was possible was because of the sustained and enlightened work of the political wing of Frelimo, who went into areas in advance of the troops to prepare the way for the war effort.

This meant that when Frelimo took over the civilian administration it was known, accepted and supported by the popular masses of the country.

The Human Rights Committee needs financial support from the people and their friends who support its actions.

All amounts, however small, will be welcomed by the Committee.

Please send donations to HRC Secretary, Sheila Weinberg P.O. Box 79051 Senderwood, 2145.

THANK YOU!

# The Freedom Charter

We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know:

that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people;

that our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;

that our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;

that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;

And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together—equals, countrymen and brothers—adopt this Freedom Charter. And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

## THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws;

All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country;

The rights of the people shall be the same, regardless of race, colour or sex;

All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

## ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!

There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races;

All people shall have equal right to use their own languages, and to develop their own folk culture and customs;

All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride;

The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime;

All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

## THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

The national wealth of our country shall be distributed so that

## THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY!

All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers;

The state shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits;

Men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work;

There shall be a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers;

Miners, domestic workers, farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work;

Child labour, compound labour, the tot system and contract labour shall be abolished.

## THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND OF CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED!

The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life;

All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands;

The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace.

### **THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!**

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people;

The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the Banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;

All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people;

All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

### **THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!**

Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land redivided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger;

The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers;

Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;

All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose; People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished.

### **ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW!**

No one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial;

No one shall be condemned by the order of any Government official;

The courts shall be representative of all the people;

Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall aim at re-education, not vengeance;

The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers and protectors of the people;

All laws which discriminate on grounds of race, colour or belief shall be repealed.

### **ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS!**

The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children;

The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law;

All shall be free to travel without restriction from country-side to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad;

Pass Laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

*Let all who love their people and their country now say, as we say here: "THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY."*

by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands; The aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace;

Education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children;

Higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit;

Adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan;

Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens;

The colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished.

### **THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT!**

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;

Unused housing space to be made available to the people; Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry;

A preventive health scheme shall be run by the state;

Free medical care and hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children;

Slums shall be demolished, and new suburbs built where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres;

The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;

Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all;

Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished, and laws which break up families shall be repealed.

### **THERE SHALL BE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP!**

South Africa shall be a fully independent state, which respects the rights and sovereignty of all nations;

South Africa shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation—not war;

Peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all;

The people of the protectorates—Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland shall be free to decide for themselves their own future;

The right of all the peoples of Africa to independence and self-government shall be recognised, and shall be the basis of close co-operation.

# AFTER THE COP . . . . .

## THE TREASON TRIAL

Soon after the Congress of the People there were hundreds of raids up and down the country on organisations and individuals involved in the event.

These police raids led to the arrest and detention of 156 South Africans of all races, who were charged with high treason.

The marathon treason trial was to last five years, and ended with the acquittal of those who appeared in court.

Among the prominent South Africans charged were Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Chief Albert Luthuli, Mrs Helen Joseph, Goven Mbeki, Joe Slovo and many others.

The Defence team included the late Bram Fischer, Mr I. Maisels Vernon Berange and others.

Those charged were:

J. Adams, M. Asmal, Y. Barenblatt, H. Barsel, L. Bernstein, P. Beylveeld, I. Bokala, A. Chamile, S. Esakjee, B. Hlapane.

A. Hutchison, J. Hodgson, Helen Joseph, Paul Joseph, F. Keitsing, Moses Kotane, Jerry Kumalo, A. Kathrada, Leon Levy, Norman Levy, S. Lottan, F. Madiba.

A. Mhlangu, V. Make, P. Mokgoe, Tennyson Makiwane, J. Makue, H. G. Makgothi, E. Malele, S. Malupe, Nelson Mandela, S. Masekela, L. Massina, July Mashaba, Bertha Mashaba, P. Mathole, J. Matlou, J. Mavuso.

T. Musi, J. Mordise, P. Molaos, J. Moleb, M. Moolia, Dr. H. M. Moosa, E. P. Moretsele, O. Motsabi.

M. K. Mpho, S. Nathie, P. Nene, L. Ngoyi, B. Ngwendu, J. Nkadineng, D. Nokwe, P. Nthite, A. E. Patel, J. Poo, R. Press.

James Hadebe, M. Ranta, R. Resha, B. Seitshiro, N. Sejake, P. Selepe, S. Shall, M. Shope, Cleopas Sibande, Walter Sisulu, G. T. Sibande, Ruth Slovo, Joe Slovo.

Oliver Tambo, S. Tyiki, R. Tunzi, M. Tshabakala, Rev. D. C. Thompson, Sunia Bunting, J. Busa, F. Carneson, A. Dawood, L. Forman, I. O. Horvitch, A. Ja Guma, C. Makhohliso, D. Mgugunyeka.

J. Morolong, L. Morrison, J. Mpoza, J. Mtini, G. Ngoyana, G. Peake, A. Sibeko, R. September.

A. Silinga, B. Turok, L. H. Lee-Warden M.P., F. Baard, D. Fuyani, Rev. S. W. Craze, J. Jack, C. Jasson, L. Kepe, P. Mashipini.

J. Matthews, Prof. Z. K. Matthews, W. Mati, Florence Matonela, C. Mayekiso, W. Mini, E. Mfana, S. P. Mkalipi, W. Z. Mkwazi, B. Ndimba, J. Kampani, B. Ntsangani.

B. Nogaya, T. Tshume, T. Tshunungwa, S. Vanqa, J. Arenstein, Dr. C. Conco, S. Dhlamini, A. Gumede, J. Hoogendyk, G. Hurbans, Chief A. J. Lutuli, P. S. Manana, I. C. Meer, P. G. Mci, Bertha Mkize.

K. Moonsamy, Dr. M. Motala, Dr. G. M. Naicker, M. P. Naicker, N. T. Naicker, B. Nair, A. Ngcobo, D. Nyembe.

E. Shanley, Dorothy Shank, P. Simelane, M. B. Yengwa, G. Dichabe, Dr. A. E. Letele.

J. B. Mofora, Martha J. Muthakoana, L. S. Moananyana, A. Seochoareng.

I. Nkosi, S. M. Kumalo, Rev. A. J. Calata, Debi Singh, Stella Damons, T. Mgqota, D. Seedat.

### POLICE PHOTOGRAPHER AT THE C.O.P.





# FREEDOM DAY MEANS.....

June 26 has always had a special significance in the history of the liberation movement in South Africa. From sources available to the HRC, it appears that during the ANC conference in Bloemfontein in 1948, a decision was taken to set aside a sort of "freedom day" or "Heroes' day", but no specific date was agreed upon at that time.

However, June 26 was adopted as a day of mourning in 1950 after 13 Blacks had been killed during May Day rioting when anti-government demonstrations were held. From then on, it was universally accepted as a very important day for patriots engaged in the struggle for liberation from South Africa's regime of oppression and racism. It was also, in that year, a day of protest against the passing of the Suppression of Communism Act.

In 1952, June 26 was take-off day for the Defiance Campaign jointly organised by the banned ANC and the S.A. Indian Congress. Three years later, in 1955, June 26 was marked by the unanimous adoption of the Freedom Charter, at the Congress of the People.



## MORENA BOLOKA

Morena, boloka sechaba sa heso,  
O fedisa lintoa le matsoenyeho. (REPEAT 2 LINES)  
O se boloka, o, se boloka,  
O se boloka, o, se boloka.  
Sechaba sa heso, sechaba sa heso.

### TRANSLATION:

God save our nation,  
Bring an end to war and suffering.

*Prose poem, "Christian Kindness" -- dedicated to Maria Kgosienq and the people who suffered forced removals to Vaalboshoek.*

Dry your tears, Maria -  
do not cry.  
Even though they have dumped you, like unwanted trash,  
in the bush - nowhere.  
Wipe your eyes, Maria -  
do not weep.  
Even though they have taken you from your house,  
the home your husband built.  
And given you, with Christian kindness,  
a square tin box.  
Dry your eyes, Maria -  
do not cry.  
Even though you mourn your Majeng garden;  
your cabbages, your grapes, your potatoes  
and your flowers.  
Wipe your eyes, Maria -  
do not weep.  
Even though this ground at Vaalboshoek  
is stoney as the hearts  
of the Christians who pushed you here  
and nothing grows but weeds and thorns.  
Dry your tears, Maria -  
do not cry.  
Even though you have no windmill here.  
Join the bucket parade -  
the tap is only two kilometres away.  
Wipe your eyes, Maria -  
do not cry.  
Even though you may not make fire  
inside your little tin box.  
The babies are hungry - bring out your  
three-legged pot  
and build your open-air fire.  
Dry your eyes, Maria -  
do not cry.  
The world and God are watching;  
and those who brought you here, against your will,  
despite your pleas to remain in the home  
your husband built -  
they will be punished.....  
for their magnificent Christian kindness.

Juby Mayet: May 1975



# HRC AIMS

The Human Rights Committee was formed in September last year by a group of people who want freedom from oppression in South Africa. The Committee stands for an internationally recognised set of values which do not, generally, exist in South Africa - principles which are embodied in the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights, from which we draw our name.

Our aim is to protest the lack of freedoms in the society; to protest the violation of human rights by the Government which is not even prepared to sign the UN Declaration; to promote consciousness among the people of S.A. and overseas of the injustices of the present regime; and to join the increasingly popular movement to bring about full rights for all the people of this country.

- \* We stand for majority rule and the radical changes this will involve in all sections of South African society.
- \* We stand for a society free of discrimination on any grounds - colour, class, belief or sex.
- \* We stand for the unconditional release of political prisoners.
- \* We stand for the abolition of detention without trial, the freeing of detainees, the lifting of house-arrest and all other restrictions.
- \* We believe that South Africa's exiles, if permitted to return, could make a full contribution to the construction of a free society.

Support from the people is most encouraging. It is vital if our role is to have real meaning in the struggle. We are all oppressed in South Africa, and we must all struggle together for freedom and equality!

NKOSI SIKELEL' iAFRIKA

Nkosi sikalel' iAfrika,  
Mali phakamisa pondo lwayo  
Yiwa imitanda zayetu  
Nkosi sikalela, nkosi sikalela.

REPEAT VERSE

Woza moya, woza woza,  
Woza moya, oyingwelo.  
Nkosi sikalela, tina isapolwayo.

TRANSLATION:

God save Africa  
Let its horn be lifted  
Do hear our prayers.  
Come spirit  
Come thy holy spirit  
God do save us, its inhabitants.