

J71

# SAVE THE PATRIOTS ON DEATH ROW



- Sharpeville Six for killing a Vaal councillor  
Mojalefa Sefatsa  
Oupa Diniso  
Duma Khumalo  
Francis Mokhesi  
Reid Mokoena  
Theresa Ramashamola
- Jansenville: necklacing  
Lilili Webushe
- Tzaneen: killing of two informers  
Alex Matsepane  
Solomon Maiwasha
- Outshoorn: death of councillor  
Dickson Madikane  
Desmond Majola  
Patrick Manginda
- Sebokeng: killing of policeman  
Daniel Maleka  
Josiah Tsawane
- Colesburg: stoning of informer  
Paul Setlaba
- Addo Youth Congress members: killing farmer and wife  
Similo Wonci  
Christopher Makeleni

- Ndumiso Sephenuko  
Machezuana Menze
- Durban: bombing of bar  
Robert McBride
- Vaal Reef: NUM members for killing team leaders  
Tjelubuyo Mgedezi  
Solomon Nogwati  
Paulos Tshehlana
- Queenstown: necklacing  
Mzwandile Gqeba  
Whanto Silinga  
Lundi Wana  
Theminkosi Press Feet  
Mzwandile Mninzi  
Mande Tingwe
- Mamelodi: killing of Soshanguve policeman.  
Oupa Mbonane  
Sibusiso Masuku
- Alice: killing vigilante  
Thembiwe Baneti
- Stutterheim: killing of alleged informers  
Mxolisi Malgas  
Michael Mambukwe  
Lulamile Maneli



These numbers are growing daily.

The People of South Africa demand:

- The staying of all executions
- The granting of prisoner of war status to all patriots
- The government's recognition and signing of the Geneva Protocol
- The release of all political prisoners

# Feelings from Death Row

Dear Friend

I only ask for a few minutes of your time. You don't know me, neither do I know you but we do have some things in common – We are both South Africans. But the major difference between us is in our circumstances. You lead your life as a member of your community while I am on death row.

You have every right to ask how I came to be sentenced to death. All I ask is for you to understand my background and be fair in your judgment of me as opposed to the SA government, which I believe sentenced me to death with the full knowledge that it has committed worse crimes.

I am from New Brighton township outside Port Elizabeth. I have lived there all my life. The people in New Brighton are poverty-stricken. We live in tiny matchbox houses that are typical of all African townships in the country.

My family shared a house with 10 others because there is such a housing shortage. The government says that it does not have enough money for housing, yet it spends millions on arms.

The rents were so high that most families could barely afford to buy clothes for their children. Then the councillors increased our rents. We tried various methods to protest peacefully against the rent increases, but with no results.

Also the councillors have no support in our community. We did not vote for them and they are basically apartheid's puppets. Some have been found guilty of bribery, corruption and murder.

To many of us, it was unforgivable that all their crimes should go without being punished.

Eventually our anger came to a head at the height of the rent protests. A large group of us marched to a councillor's house. Years of deprivation and exploitation had made us angry and frustrated. In that fit of anger, we burnt the councillor's fancy house and killed him.

In my plea to you for understanding, may I say that I do not believe that I am a violent person or a criminal.

It is for this that I have been sentenced to death and am on death row together with others who were involved in similar incidents throughout the country.

The actions I took part in were as a result of many years of suffering and deprivation. I believe that my actions were a direct result of the apartheid system and, to destroy this evil system to make way for a democratic, non-racial society, I am prepared to die.

This letter was written by those concerned with the plight on death row. However, the feelings expressed could be those of any one of the patriots.