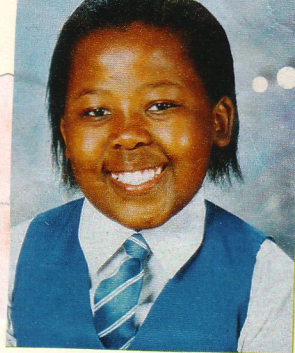


ONE SCHOOLGIRL'S STORY



During the day further incidents of unrest broke out. We heard gunshots from the direction of the Esso garage and we rushed there to see what was happening. Trucks were stopped and looted, and police fired shots in an attempt to disperse the crowd. As the crowd was scattered, my aunt was shot, but we could not stop to find out how she was.

I ran home and hid under a van parked in our yard. The Boers [Afrikaners] came into the yard, carrying guns. They grabbed some of the people who ran into our yard. I stayed under the truck, quietly, until they left. I stayed there until I was certain they were gone. By the time I came out, I could smell tear-gas fumes in the air. I was terrified that the Boers would beat me up like they did those they grabbed in our yard.

When I emerged from under the van, things had quietened down a bit. I quickly ran into the house where I locked myself in. Peeping through the windows, I could see police in armoured trucks chasing people and beating them up.

Black schoolchildren and collage students rioting in Soweto on 16 June 1976. These riots triggered months of serious violence throughout the country, and some historians believe that the apartheid government was never again in complete control of the country.

