

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 87/94 Fear of Extrajudicial execution

4 March 1994

SOUTH AFRICA: Enoch NZUZA, National Union of Metalworkers of South
Africa (NUMSA) regional organizer, and African National
Congress (ANC) member
Mandla NZUZA, Enoch Nzuza's brother

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of Enoch Nzuza, a trade union organizer and African National Congress (ANC) member, and for members of his family, following recent attacks on them by armed men acting with the acquiescence of the local police.

Enoch Nzuza is Northern Natal North regional organizer for the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (NUMSA). He has survived at least two previous assassination attempts (see AFR 53/18/92, 28 August 1992). He and his family have suffered constant harassment from members of the South African Police, who have aggressively searched their home - in the Ndlangubo Reserve, a rural village west of Empangeni - on numerous occasions, including most recently in late December 1993.

On the evening of 12 February 1994, unidentified men in a white van forced Enoch Nzuza's vehicle off the road he was driving near his home. The occupants of the white van opened fire on him and the two companions he was travelling with. When they returned fire the attackers fled. Although his car was wrecked, Enoch Nzuza and his companions were apparently not seriously injured.

On 20 February two men entered the family's home and shot Mandla Nzuza, one of Enoch's younger brothers. The attackers shot him in the neck and left thigh, before running away from the house. Mandla Nzuza survived the attack. The family reported the shooting to the police, who went to the hospital to question Mandla. They did not visit the scene of the shooting until 3 March. They showed little interest in searching for forensic evidence, such as spent cartridges, and did not take a statement from Mandla or other possible witnesses.

However they requested Mandla report to the Mtunzini police station. As a consequence of the reputation of this police station for collusion with the perpetrators of politically-motivated attacks in the area, the family fear the consequences of complying with this request.

Although the perpetrators of these two recent attacks have not been publicly identified, there are fears that those responsible are linked to the local Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)-aligned chief, Boy Mzimela. He reportedly uses KwaZulu Policemen as bodyguards and has publicly stated he would kill any member of his family known to be an ANC sympathiser. In 1990 Enoch Nzuza assisted three members of the Mzimela family in a legal suit challenging the appointment of Boy Mzimela as the successor to the chieftanship. From December 1990 through June 1992, the three men involved in this legal suit were murdered. In August 1993, two other members of the family, who were ANC regional branch officials and one of them a NUMSA shop-steward, were shot dead in Esikhawini township, reportedly by members of the KwaZulu Police. No-one has been brought to justice for these murders.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Northern Natal coastal region is a tense area dominated politically by the IFP and the KwaZulu "homeland" authorities, under the leadership of the IFP

President, Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, who is also Chief Minister and Minister of Police in the "homeland". Since 1990 this region has experienced a high level of political violence, largely characterized by IFP attacks on members of the ANC and ANC-aligned trade unions. Both the South African Police and the KwaZulu Police, which have jurisdiction in different magisterial districts of this region, have failed to protect people vulnerable to attack and have sometimes directly colluded in IFP attacks.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Enoch Nzuza, NUMSA regional organizer, and his family, following attacks on them in February 1994 by armed men, operating apparently with the acquiescence of the KwaZulu and South African Police in the Natal North Coast area;
- urging that immediate steps are taken for the protection of Enoch Nzuza and his family, in accordance with their wishes;
- urging that the authorities order an immediate and impartial investigation into the attacks on Enoch Nzuza and his family, and that the perpetrators are brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to exercise their responsibility to protect the lives of all South Africans, by making available to them an impartial police force willing to respond promptly to calls for assistance and willing to investigate and arrest the perpetrators of attacks, irrespective of political affiliation.

APPEALS TO:

1) Mr F W de Klerk
State President
State President's Office
Private Bag X83
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

Telegrams: President de Klerk, Pretoria, South Africa

Faxes: + 27 12 323 3982

Salutation: Dear President

2) Lieutenant-General W H Steyn
Regional Police Commissioner, Natal
P O Box 391
Durban 4000, South Africa

Telegrams: Natal Regional Police Commissioner, Durban, South Africa

Salutation: Dear Commissioner

3) General During
Commissioner of Police
KwaZulu Department of Police
Private Bag X14
Ulundi 3838
South Africa

Telegrams: Police Commissioner During, Ulundi, South Africa

Salutation: Dear Commissioner

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

- The Station Commander, Mtunzini Police Station, Mtunzini 3867, South Africa
- Human Rights Commission, Natal Office, 20 St Andrews Street, Durban 4001, South Africa

- National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), PO Box 1714, Empangeni 3880, South Africa
- Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), Head Office, PO Box 1019, Johannesburg 2000

and to diplomatic representatives of South Africa accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 April 1994.