



# PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS (P.A.C.) OF AZANIA

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YOUR REF:

## MEDIA STATEMENT

OUR REF:

### THE CLAMPDOWN ON THE PAC BY THE RACIST REGIME

In the early hours of May, 25 1993 the security forces of the regime carried out a nation-wide swoop against members of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania. Their particular target was the leadership of the PAC, both at national and regional levels. Thus far 72 PAC members have been detained in the country-wide swoop. As far as we know, the arrests are continuing.

Those arrested include:

- 1) Jaki Seroko, Secretary for Political Affairs;
- 2) Enoch Zulu, Administrative Officer in the President's Office;
- 3) Dr. Solly Skosana, Secretary for Environmental Affairs;
- 4) Maxwell Nemaizivhenani, National Organiser;
- 5) Waters Tobori, Director of Publicity.

We, however, wish to draw special attention of the international community to the totally unwarranted detention of Comrade Louis Baloyi. Gde Baloyi was involved in a car accident in 1991 and has since been confined to a wheelchair. He was released from hospital only last Friday and was arrested yesterday morning. His detention is a gross violation of human rights.

The PAC considers the raid and arrests, in true fascist fashion, as totally unwarranted and further confirmation that apartheid is very much alive in this country at present. Although there are conflicting statements by different representatives of the regime, concerning the decision and execution of the fascist raid, the PAC holds the regime responsible for the condemned act. The act further proves the incompetence of the regime, besides it being illegal.

The regime's Commissioner of Police, when asked why the raid was carried out now, responded publicly by stating that it was aimed at

getting the police budget through the minority racist parliament. It will be recalled that both the regime's Commissioner of Police and the Minister of Law and Order participated in the bilateral meeting which was held between the PAC and the regime in Borevana early this year. That meeting specifically addressed the issues of violence and armed struggle. At that meeting it was acknowledged that PAC was not involved in the senseless violence currently afflicting the country. On the issue of armed struggle, the PAC called for mutual cessation of hostilities. This legitimate call of the PAC was rejected by Mr. Kriel and his generals.

At that bilateral meeting Mr. Kriel openly opposed the PAC participation in the then impending talks (Multi-Party planning conference). Because of our adherence to the resolutions of our National Congress and our commitment to a genuine democratic solution to the conflict in Azania, we fully participated in the multi-party talks. Our presence in the talks fundamentally altered the talks from being bilateral to truly multi-lateral. This new situation conflicted with the pre-designed strategy of the regime in the talks.

The unwarranted and uncalled for strong-arm tactics of the regime has placed a question mark on the negotiation process. The arrest of NEC members and regional leaders has now made it virtually impossible for the PAC to effectively and meaningfully continue participating in the negotiation process. The removal of important strategy documents and the computer discs also renders us incapable of substantive participation.

The ball, as far as the future of talks are concerned, is now in the court of the regime. All the participants in the Negotiating Council, with the exception of the Conservative Party, yesterday condemned the raid and demanded of the regime the following:-

- 1) Immediately charge or release those that have been arrested;
- 2) Return all materials seized from PAC;
- 3) Take all necessary steps to remedy this unfortunate situation and undo the damage done to the Negotiation process.

This is a collective demand of the overwhelming majority of the people of Azania. The regime must comply with these legitimate demands immediately.

The PAC will be convening a National Council meeting soon to review the situation and decide on future strategy including future participation in the Multi-Party Negotiation process. Needless to say, between now and then the PAC and all Negotiating Council members will be watching whether the demands listed in the Council's resolution will be met by the regime.

We wish to reiterate PAC's demands:

- 1) Unconditional release of all those arrested;
- 2) Return of all confiscated documents and equipment;
- 3) Pay for the damages to property;
- 4) Inform us of which documents the regime has photo-copied;
- 5) Extend an apology (public) to the PAC and compensate members for wrongful arrests.

Unless these legitimate and reasonable demands, supported by the vast majority of the people in this country, the regime will be solely responsible for our non-participation in the current talks.

The PAC, for sometime now, has observed that the regime continues to apply its double-standard policy. The regime is fully aware that the PAC owns no media in the country. The media is either state-owned or owned by interest groups. PAC positions and statements have often been distorted. These distorted statements are then deliberately dubbed as PAC policies. No one cares to read PAC basic documents or Congress resolutions.

The regime's representative yesterday cited a newspaper report to justify the fascist raid. Yet, a leading member of the Conservative is formally charged for the murder of Cde Chris Hani. Yet the offices of the CP and its members have not been raided or harassed. If this is not racism in practice, then what is it?

The regime claims PAC and APLA members have been arrested. As far

as we know all those arrested are bona fide PAC members. The régime reported the arrest of Comrade Fihla, but he was never arrested!

This is deliberate harassment of a legal political organisation and must be strongly condemned!

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Clarence M. Makwetu - President

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