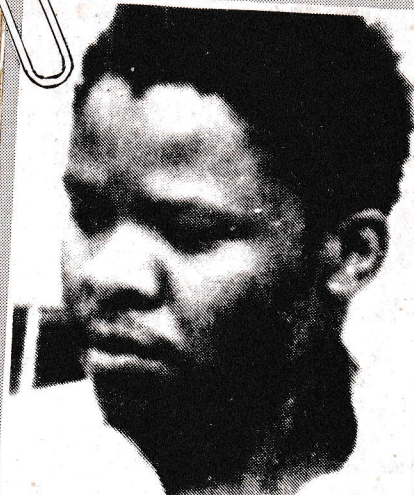


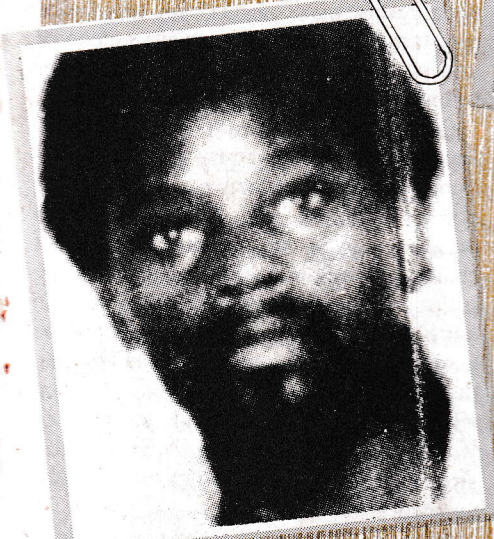
# ANC NEWSBRIEFING



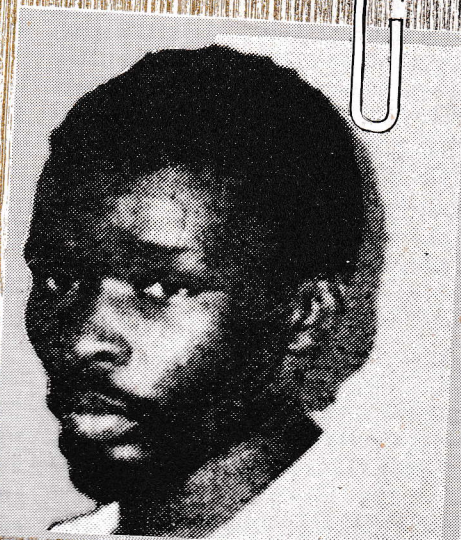
NEO POTSANE — DEATH



TING TING MASANGO — DEATH



JABU MASINA — DEATH



JOSEPH MAKHURA — 25 YEARS

## ACT TO SAVE THEIR LIVES!

### PRETORIA'S COLD-BLOODED EXECUTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR IS MURDER!

On pronouncement of sentence, the four MK combatants said: 'Long live the ANC! We love life, but we love our people and our country even more. If we are hanged, our death will not have been in vain'

The South African government and defence force leaders constantly state that South Africa is in a state of war. We as soldiers cannot and should not stand trial in a civilian court ...

As MK soldiers, we do not recognise this civilian court and accordingly refuse to plead to the charges'.

On refusing to participate in the trial, they stated: 'We, as members of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the ANC, are involved in a war of national liberation ...

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**PLEASE NOTE:** The information contained in this bulletin is obtained from press cuttings, quoting directly from them. The terminology used is that of the newspapers, and the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the African National Congress. **Issued by:** ANC, Box 38, London N1 9PR, UK. **SUBSCRIPTION RATE: £60 per annum.** Payment can be made by cheque, money order or through the Post Office Giro (A/c No 515604003)



## FREE MANDELA UNCONDITIONALLY!

The government is willing to release Nelson Mandela if he is prepared to play a role in achieving peaceful solutions to SA's problems, PW Botha told a joint meeting of parliament yesterday. However, it would be futile to release him if he was committed to violence and acted in such a way as to cause his re-arrest ... 'Although the circumstances of his imprisonment have changed, the conditions for his release have remained unchanged... No head of state can lend himself to the overthrow of democratic principles and free initiative. In the circumstances, his case must be handled with circumspection. If he is prepared to play a role in the peaceful solution of SA's problems, I would welcome it. In such a case the government would respond open-heartedly ... I conclude that he will not allow himself to be manipulated from outside. I leave it there', Botha said.

A release advisory board under a judge, functioning under the Prisons Act, advises the government on the release of a prisoner, taking into consideration his offence, the purpose of the court in imposing the sentence it did, the interests of the community and any probability of again resorting to criminal acts. It was against this background that Mandela's position was still receiving the attention of the government ... 'I hope he will act in such a way as to make it possible for me to release him', Botha said. *Citizen 18.4.89*

Sir Robin Renwick, the British Ambassador to SA, last week requested permission to see Nelson Mandela in what Whitehall hopes will be a step towards (his) negotiated release. It is the first time that Britain has asked to visit Mandela. If the application is approved by PW Botha, it could signify an important shift in Pretoria's strategy for releasing the leader of the ANC. The justice ministry is expected to give its verdict this week.

Until now Pretoria has rejected all requests for a visit to Mandela by foreign government representatives. It has allowed visits only by members of his family, his lawyers and selected outsiders... But there are signs that a British request may be granted, and informed sources believe that Renwick, who has acted as an adviser to Margaret Thatcher on southern Africa, would not have applied unless he was confident permission would be granted. His application had Thatcher's full backing, according to a Downing Street spokesperson. *Sunday Times (UK) 24.4.89*

### Mandela's Letter to Buthelezi

The full text of the recent letter from Nelson Mandela to Buthelezi has been released. The letter comes at a critical time for peace-making attempts in Natal ... The full text is as follows:

'Dear Shenge,  
I thank you for the warm and well-considered telex message you sent me on behalf of King Zwelithini and Inkatha on the occasion of my

70th birthday. I also received your letter of 26 August, 1988 in which you wished me a speedy recovery from illness, and in which you outlined your efforts both locally and abroad to secure the release of prisoners in South Africa.

Apart from your telex and a telegram from Mrs Helen Suzman, hundreds of similar messages came from well-wishers in the country and in different parts of the world. It is partly the unswerving support of such men and women, and partly the achievements by our organisation within and outside the country, which have given prisoners so much strength and hope. You will readily accept that it is not at all easy from my present quarters to comment fully and freely on the sentiments you so eloquently expressed in the above correspondence. It is sufficient to state that your persistent demand for the unconditional release of prisoners before negotiation can start is a stand I have always welcomed as a positive contribution to the search for lasting peace in this country.

Obviously, my fervent hope is to see, in due course, the restoration of the cordial relations which existed between you and OR (Oliver Tambo), and between the two organisations in the seventies. The most challenging task facing the leadership today is that of national unity. At no other time in our history has it become so crucial for our people to speak with one voice, and to pool their efforts. Any act or statement, from whatever source, which tends to create or worsen division is, in the existing political situation, a fatal error which ought to be avoided at all costs.

Far more information than I possess at the moment is required before I can blame any of the parties involved in the deplorable conflicts now taking place in Natal. All the same, I consider it a serious indictment against all of us that we are still unable to combine forces to stop the slaughter of so many innocent lives. The struggle is our life and, even though the realisation of our fondest dreams may not be at hand, we can nevertheless make that struggle immensely enriching or absolutely disastrous.

In my entire political career few things have distressed me (so much) as to see our people killing one another as is now happening. As you know, the entire fabric of community life in some of the affected areas has been seriously disrupted, leaving behind a legacy of hatred and bitterness which may haunt us for years to come. It is a matter which requires the urgent attention of all people in this country. Nothing will please me more than to know that my concern and appeal have not fallen on deaf ears.

Once again, I thank you, the King and Inkatha for your inspiring message. My best wishes to you and Mndlunkulu.

*Yours sincerely, Madiba'  
Weekly Mail 21.4.89*