

ANC STATEMENT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF RUTH FIRST

Once more, the fascist Pretoria regime, faced with the evergrowing wrath and revolutionary zeal of our people inside South Africa and increasing isolation internationally, has committed yet another cowardly and dastardly act of murder by assassinating comrade Ruth First in Maputo, Mozambique, yesterday. Cde Ruth First, an outstanding member of the ANC the vanguard liberation movement in South Africa, a journalist of great talent, a writer and revolutionary, was brutally killed by the South African racists and their agents when she opened a parcel bomb at the Eduardo Mondlane University where she was working as a part of her contribution to the efforts of reconstruction in newly independent Mozambique.

The racist regime desperate to liquidate the liberation forces, has now embarked on a strategy of physical elimination of the leaders, members and supporters of the ANC, both inside and outside the South African borders. The aim is to intimidate and demoralise the rest of the oppressed and struggling masses of our people. In pursuit of this goal, they have cold-bloodedly assassinated Griffiths Mxenge, Dr Aggett, Moabi Dipale, inside the country, then Joe Gqabi in Harare, the Amotola twelve in Maputo, Cde Nzima and his wife in Swaziland, and now Ruth First again in Maputo. To quote the most recent, acts of terrorism by the South African racist rulers.

Ruth First, therefore, has been selected by the racists because of her unswerving dedication to the liberation struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa. She dedicated all her talents and life to the advancement of this noble ideal. In fact her contribution to the cause of liberation has made its mark even across our National borders, in the neighbouring countries, and beyond.

These acts of banditry against the ANC and our cause of liberation will not deter us from pursuing and intensifying the struggle until final victory.

Ruth First and all the other martyrs and heroes of our struggle are a source of inspiration and encouragement to us all.

The ANC expresses heartfelt condolences to her family, to Cde Joe Slovo, her husband, life-time companion and comrade-in-arms.

Her life has not been in vain. Our Victory is Certain!

Alfred Nzo
Secretary General
August 18th, 1982