Ruth First’s death rekindles claim of anti-ANC hit list

By Pat Bulger
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General Johan Coetzen has flatly denied any involvement.

Ama has released a list of assassinated and maimed ANC members, accusing SA of being responsible.

On the list are:
- 1976: John Dube, deputy representative of the ANC in Zambia, killed in Lusaka plus three others injured.
- 1978: ANC member Ablom Duma killed by bomb in post office box in Swaziland; ANC members John Majola and Willie Nyoni ambushed in a truck in Swaziland. Majola presumed dead or kidnapped.
- 1980: ANC member Patrick Maku killed when two houses of refugees in Manzini were blown up; car bomb destroyed house of ANC’s Thembo Hanji.
- 1981: SA commando unit attacked three ANC houses in Mozambique. 13; Joe Guabhi, chief Zimbabwe representative of the ANC, shot dead.
- 1993: Bomb destroys London ANC office; ANC representative in Swaziland, Petrus Nyawo, and wife Jobu killed by car bomb in Manzini; Ruth First killed in Mozambique.

The assassinations and the attempts have never been pinned to anyone.

Commenting on Abraham Tiro’s death, a police spokesman in Botswana said that all they could establish was that it was a letter bomb. The rubber stamp was not South African, but the njengonjena was posted by a South African agent.

“Tiro was one of the most wanted men in South Africa,” the spokesman said.

Asked if special security was contemplated for South African refugees, he replied, “No, one can give any guarantees.”

Growing numbers of SA refugees are causing problems in the Southern African countries committed to housing them. Conservative estimates put their number in Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and Mozambique at about 10,000.

Swaziland officials have been warned to steer clear of political activities—an unusual request since most are there because of their political feelings.

The warning came from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Emanuella Owusu who said, there was no special security for refugees in other countries.

Refugees from Mozambique were keen about the death of Professor Verwoerd reaching security proposals are likely.