

# Outcry over ban on meeting

**THE Worker's Support Committee has condemned a Johannesburg magistrate for banning a meeting at which the death of ANC leader, Professor Ruth First, who was killed by a parcel bomb in Maputo last week, was to have been commemorated.**

The meeting, which was to have been held at the Methodist Youth Centre in Soweto on Sunday, was cancelled because of a magisterial order, which stipulated what would and what could not be said or done at the meeting.

According to a spokesman for the Worker's Support Committee, the order was similar to one issued to Mrs Lizzie Dipale, the day before her son, Ernest Dipale who died at John Vorster Square, was to be buried.

The same order also resulted in the cancellation of a memorial service which was planned for Sunday afternoon, a day after Dipale's funeral.

The WSC spokesman said the magistrate, Mr J P Duvendage, should look at

the Freedom Charter, "to see for himself what the people want in this country.

"We have been harassed on many occasions in funeral and memorial services we have tried to hold for our dead leaders. But this cannot in any way stop us from telling the truth.

"We will always protest against the assassination of our leaders in exile. We salute Professor First for the

work she has done in the working class' struggle.

"It is also common knowledge that she was assassinated by agents of our enemies who have done the same thing against other leaders like Abram Tiro, Joe Gqabi and many others," said the spokesman.

Prof First, who was married to Mr Joe Slovo, a former Johannesburg advocate who

is now a high ranking ANC official and actively involved in the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, was killed when a parcel bomb exploded in her hands in Maputo.

Ruth First was working at a university in Maputo. Her funeral, held in Maputo, was attended by over 3 000 people including her husband, Mr Slovo and senior officials of the ruling Frelimo party in Mozambique.