

# Mzala Speaks On Violence

"Please help me!" She thought her troubles were over when she hastily grabbed the police officer. It was the beginning of the worst. If it were a nightmare perhaps that would have been better, but she was wide awake, and so were her fears.

As the Relationship Violence Awareness week reaches its peak, let Mzala take you for a while to a land of no appointments. We buzz into the heartland of South Africa. Please make sure your Passes are in good order if you are non-white, else you will remain in the Apartheid's jail when others come back.

The first striking thing we see is the enormous numbers of blacks. How can these folks be oppressed when they are so many? TIME magazine put their number at 26 million last May. Their white counterparts were put at 5 million while the other 'races' formed only 4 million. What amazing statistics in the land troubled by violent apartheid! Do not be fooled, we heard, this regime survives because of her Western allies. The hostility toward the West is so apparent we certainly have to find out the reason behind.

Something bad has happened. There is a catchy headline on the newspaper. This time it is not the violence we can expect to see on TV. It is a sad story

of an 18 year old Elizabeth Mokwena. She had been kicked, beaten, raped and stabbed to death. Gross? It is really gross, but it is a true story. This is one of the remote consequences of racial hatred in South Africa. The same story can happen anywhere in the world under a different guise. So, do not be deceived by the limited security you have and ignore the voices of those who try to warn you about the possibility of violence against you. Unfortunately for Elizabeth the four white guys came under the guise of policemen. They 'arrested' her for not having a Pass, a document every South African black has to carry around to be produced on demand by any police officer. Instead of taking her to jail, they took her by the riverside to molest her and ultimately run over her bleeding body twice by their truck. Her brother and cousin, who were with her during the 'arrest', could not protect her since the 'law' calls for every black to produce a Pass on demand by the white minority government. Thus, the obnoxious Apartheid law served some idiots' purposes. What effects does her death have on her parents and the whole black community? Devastating.

We move over from the crowded street where the newspaper vendors are kept busy because of this

saddening story. As we cross to the next street, a deafening sound of chanting protesters force us to wait and see what is going on. Armored military vehicles are stationed everywhere around that vicinity. Only an order from the stupid commander will set things into motion. Why protest? Too many reasons. They are protesting against the further imposition of the State of Emergency. This State of Emergency is a marshal law which gives any police officer in command sweeping powers to arrest whomever he/she perceive as a 'threat to the state.' There will be no trial in such arrests. An order to disperse has been issued to the protesters. Their singing increases in defiance. In a short moment we are all scattering in different directions because of the teargas shot at the protesters. Shouts, curses, cries, screams, and gunshots all characterize the unrest situation. Everyone seems to be in an excited mood. Enough of that, how then can we expect a peaceful resolution amidst such a state?

As we listen attentively to the speakers at the Sharpville Massacre commemoration, calls were made to the Botha government to dismantle the Apartheid laws immediately, release political prisoners, unban the African National

Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress and all other legitimate organizations which oppose Apartheid, thereafter, invite all recognized leaders of the people to come to the negotiating table to find a peaceful way to share power. Failure to do that will result in the people's increased revolt.

As of present, the South African regime has not taken heed of that sound advice. The people's patience is running out, and a fertile ground for a bloody revolution has long been cultivated. Men and women, young and old, are leaving the country in increased numbers to prepare themselves for this revolution. Most of them are already back in the country mobilizing the masses. Students are in control of their environment at the moment, that is, if they have grievances to raise, they do so in a demanding way. Boycotts are used to back up their demands. It is the same story with the workers. National organizations are set up to unite the people. These organizations are decentralized to survive the mass arrests of prominent leaders, ranging from students to the most experienced veterans of the struggle.

We can now safely conclude by saying, if there be an opportunity for a peaceful change, that opportunity is NOW.

## Why Are These Books Banned?

by Bobby C. Simpson

Recently, I visited the banned books exhibit at the library expecting to find some really atrocious material that should actually be banned from various communities. However, it was to my shock and utter disbelief at what is actually banned to portions of the American public.

The first book that caught my eye was the book, "Gone With The Wind." Though I thoroughly abhor the book and motion picture, I see no reason for the book to be banned. The worst part in the book is the end when Scarlett says "tomorrow is another day" or some rubbish that effect, but other than that, there is truly nothing wrong with book. I think that it is ludicrous to ban "Gone With The Wind."

The second book that really shocked me as far as being a banned book was "Jaws". The caption inside of the book telling why it was banned stated that it was sexually explicit and had objectionable

language. A masochist obviously made that decision for only a masochist would reason as to why a book about a tired Santa should be banned.

In conclusion, I would like raise the following question: "Who is to say what is right and what is wrong when deal-even think that a shark which devours people is sexually explicit. It really makes a person wonder who is making these decisions, probably someone who follows Lyndon LaRouche. "Jaws" has always been in my opinion a simple, though worn out, horror story. What is the big deal?"

Another very disappointing series of books that I saw displayed were some of Kurt Vonnegut's works, namely "Slaughterhouse-5." I read this book in high school and derived much enjoyment from it. Truly, I feel Kurt Vonnegut is a master of satire. Therefore, when I saw this and another one of his books on exhibit,

I truly began to doubt the sincerity of the people who banned the books. Even a very humorous book about a disgruntled Santa Claus is banned. This particular book tells the side of Santa that no one else talks about, the side of a man who is just sick and tired of climbing out of bed, going through the snow and rain delivering junk to little snotty brats who tear the presents up the day after Christmas. Personally, I think this side of Santa Claus should be brought forth so that people appreciate what this fictional character does for us all (let's get real, these people banned a book about a man who does not exist because it corrupts the minds of children about this non-existent person). Do you not think that we are by far corrupting the child's mind by telling him or her that there is a such thing as a fat elderly man running around at night in a fire red costume, flying through the air on sleigh without

any cover, pulled by eight reindeer who can fly and lead by a reindeer whose nose glows red. If you ask me it sound more like something from a person on an LSD "trip". Therefore, in this case, I can really find nothing with another person's ideas?" If I say that I think that pornography and masochism are great untapped money making resources and if I market the concept, and I then write a book about it, who is to say that what I believe in is wrong? How can a person or a group of people say that this material is not fitting for others to read? How can those people give themselves that much power in a democratic society? What essentially the banning of literary materials leads to is the banning of any and all information that a group of people feels is not "fitting" for others to read or hear. I think this issue supercedes the boundaries of whether one is conservative or liberal because at the heart of this issue is not how people tend to affiliate themselves but a very crucial component of the democratic system, that being the freedom of speech and the pursuit of happiness. And that proposed happiness should be maintained whether you derive happiness from reading the Bible, which in my opinion can be banned along with the rest of the books that people have banned, or from reading the latest issue of Penthouse Magazine. I encourage each student of this college to view this exhibit and see the books, aside from the ones mentioned above, that have been banned in various communities and schools in this country. Who would have thought that such simple and great material would pose enough of a threat to be banned from people?

