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PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS (P.A.C.) OF AZANIA

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PRESS RELEASE

REGIME INTRANSIGENT NOT TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MUTUAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

Following the universally condemned raid on PAC premises by the South African Police and the Military Intelligence which led to the harassment and detention of PAC leaders and members, the Regime has been engaged in a vicious campaign to portray the PAC and its military wing, APLA, as bloodthirsty, intransigent, senseless murderers, and as an organisation bent upon prosecuting a racial war against whites and wrecking vengeance against the settler farming communities.

The deliberate campaign to portray the PAC and APLA as criminals and murderers is not only designed to undermine the legitimacy of armed struggle against colonial oppressors and the right of the oppressed to use all means and method at their disposal to fight against the whole ugly edifice, that is Apartheid and Settler Colonialism, but is also an attempt to disguise and distract the African masses and the World's attention away from the intransigence of the Regime and its unwillingness to enter negotiations with the PAC on the Mutual Cessation of Hostilities.

The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania hereby wish to put it on record that for centuries the African people, have been victims of settler-colonial oppression, capitalist super-exploitation, land dispossession and social humiliation and degradation. Since time immemorial, the Regime has, historically, been carrying wanton murder and untold hostilities against our people. These atrocities have been, and are today, consistently carried out through the Regime's army, its police force, its commandos and its citizens force. Under the so-called "Joint Management" system which embrace every community, particularly white farmers, Africans live under the mercy of the Regime's instruments of coercion, namely SADF and SAP.

Africans have suffered and continue to endure many a massacre carried out by the regime against defenceless men, women and children. Whenever our people engaged in appeals to the Regime by way of a peaceful protest or marches as in Sharpeville (1960), Soweto (1976) and Sebokeng (1984), etc, the so-called security forces of the Regime have gone out of their way to massacre our people mercilessly. In all these massacres the Regime, through its Racist Courts and Parliament, has been quick to indemnify these "mass murderers in state uniforms".

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The complicity of the security forces in the massacre of our people in Boipatong last year is the latest case of these hostile acts against the African people.

It would, for example, be recalled that although the police had allegedly not been given the order to shoot at peaceful protesters in Sharpeville in 1960, when the bereaved Africans instituted claims against the regime, they were pre-empted by an Act of Indemnity passed by the Verwoerd Racist Parliament. This pattern continued even in the case of the 1976 Soweto Uprising under the Voster Regime.

Colonel Swanepoel who commanded the merciless massacres of over a thousand school children during the 1976 Soweto Uprisings had the audacity to publicly state in the "Star Newspaper" during the wake of the 1980's Uprisings that the Security Forces did not kill enough Africans in Soweto 1976 Uprisings, hence Africans are once again standing up because they did not die enough to learn not to challenge their settler-oppressor.

Currently the State is funding the deployment of hired mercenaries such as the Koevoet, Battalion 31 and 32 and Askaris in white farms. Instead of restricting these hired mercenaries to barracks and keep them under international supervision or simply expel them from our soil, the regime uses them as an extended stick to fan violence in the African communities.

White-Farmers have been able to carry out various abuses against the African farm labourers with the protection of Apartheid laws and the Racist Laws and Courts. Labourer Sambo who was tied to a tree and thoroughly beaten to death over a period of 2 days for accidentally killing the "master's" dog while ploughing with a tractor, is a case in point. Many Africans like him have suffered the same fate without the recourse and protection of the law.

Ironically, the same farmers who are guilty of these atrocities against the African people are the very same people who are currently engaged in a nationwide campaign to resist the extension the Wages and Labour Relations Act to the farms where those farmers are a law unto themselves.

The recent deployment of SADF and security forces against the nominally independent homeland of Transkei is yet another regrettable example of unwarranted hostilities and acts of aggression against the African communities. These atrocities are routinely carried out against our people under the guise and pretence of rooting our society of the so-called "APLA MENACE" which, it is claimed, is being exported from alleged APLA bases situated in the Republic of Transkei.

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It must be restated that the whole policies of Apartheid which have been universally condemned as a "crime against humanity", were and are an act of war and violence against the African people. To the PAC, all Apartheid laws such as the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936, the Bantustan Act and Forced Removals, etc are all formes of violence against the African people.


Armed struggle, therefore, arose in order to fight these evils in defence of the oppressed African masses. Under international law, oppressed indigenous people have a right to use all means at their disposal, including armed struggle, in order to liberate themselves and their country and to assert their right to national self-determination.

We, hereby, wish to underline that the PAC and APLA, our military wing, are in principle ready to enter negotiations and discussions with the Regime and all interested parties on the "Mutual Cessation of Hostilities" in line with the 1989 Harare Declaration of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

ISSUED BY THE PAC PRESIDENCY:

SIGNED :


CLARENCE MAKWETU (PRESIDENT)


JOHNSON MLAMBO (DEPUTY PRESIDENT)

DATED : 18 JUNE 1993

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21 June 1993

PRESS RELEASE

PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA PREPARED TO MEET FARMERS

The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania is prepared to meet White farmers with a view to addressing issues of common interest between the farmers and the African communities either employed by the white farmers or living close to the White farms.

Africans either employed in White farms or living near these farms have suffered and continue to suffer many abuses at the hands of White farmers. These abuses are age-old. Farmers are a law unto themselves. This aggravates the pain of land dispossession suffered by Africans in general. The Azanian People's Liberation Army is addressing these through Armed Struggle. The PAC seeks to address these deep concerns politically, with the White farmers.

Dialogue over such concerns between PAC and the African community on the one hand, and White farmers on the other, is important, in the view of the PAC. It could contribute to a relatively peaceful resolution of the many conflicts afflicting our country, i.e. given the F.W. De Klerk Regime's intransigence to agree on a mutual cessation of hostilities with the PAC.

By this refusal the regime unnecessarily continues to endanger the lives of many young security force members. By referring the issue to the Multi-Party Negotiations process in Kempton Park the Regime is dodging and ducking its responsibility. PAC may disagree with most Parties in our country, but it wages no war against them since they hold no political power. PAC, however, has a conflict with the Regime. The Regime must not be allowed by Parties at Kempton Park to create a smokescreen to derail the talks.

In principle, PAC is prepared and has been prepared since our 1990 Congress to have a Mutual Cessation of Hostilities with the Regime. Let the two concerned parties, the Regime and PAC agree in principle on the need for a mutual cessation of hostilities then they can work out the modalities. Only when the modalities are agreed upon can actual cessation take place.

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A unilateral ceasefire by PAC as demanded by the Regime would be most irresponsible. It would be tantamount to ordering our APLA Fighters to surrender to a settler army that has not defeated the oppressed African masses.

But PAC is flexible. We are prepared to cease fire if ;

- a) A Transitional Authority with full independent control over the security forces is established, or
- b) If the process to elect a Constituent Assembly is set in motion, or
- c) If there is a mutual cessation of hostilities.

ISSUED BY : MLAMLI CLARENCE MAKWETU
PAC PRESIDENT
DATED : 21 June 1993



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THE OPPRESSED CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE BIAS OF THE SECURITY FORCES

The oppressed and dispossessed masses of Azania are outraged at the complicity of the security forces of the racist regime in the attack upon our representatives at the World Trade Centre Negotiations Process in Kempton Park last Friday. In the attack, not only were delegates attacked, humiliated and held hostage by rabid racists of the Right, but even African members of the South African Defence Force and Army were insulted. Statements like "Kaffer wie het jou daardie geweer gegee?" were thrown at those members of the security forces from the oppressed community, with reckless abandon.

These insults are totally unacceptable. Their gravity is even deeper given the fact that the command of the security forces aided and abetted these crimes. For thirty-six hours they could only boast of arresting one armoured vehicle - used by the Right Wing to gate-crash into the World Trade Centre. Whenever our people engage in peaceful protest, they are brutally beaten-up and arrested, as happened in front of our Offices on 25th May 1993. In dealing with the oppressed, the security forces follow the policy of "shoot first, ask questions later." But in dealing with crimes committed in full public view of their Right Wing buddies - they follow a different policy.

To bring those double standards to an end PAC calls upon the oppressed masses and justice loving people to attend a rally tomorrow at 12 o'clock outside the World Trade Centre - to strengthen our call for Neutral Venue and Neutral Chairperson for the Talks.

On the regime's suspension of bilateral talks with PAC, we can only say that this is in line with their long-standing position. With their security forces fuelling conflict among the oppressed, with their Army besieging Transkei, they cannot pretend they are not engaged in hostilities against our people. Racist Apartheid policies - giving 87% of our land to settlers are still in place. They are hostilities.

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