

Ex Quatro prisoner says ANC out to kill freed 'agents'

By Tony Stirling

Mr PATRICK Dlongwana (30), one of 32 South African agents released from ANC detention camps, says the ANC's security department is out to kill him and the others.

He said yesterday one of the group, who have been staying at the Springbok Hotel in Johannesburg, had gone for a walk on Tuesday and been held up at gunpoint by members of the ANC's security department.

Mr Dlongwana said Mr Bongani Mallaga had been robbed of money given to him by the "boers" (the government) and told that he and his friends would be killed if they again spoke to the media.

Guarded

A Johannesburg police spokesman said last night he had no knowledge of the alleged incident. The Springbok Hotel was yesterday under guard by uniformed policemen.

Mr Dlongwana who said he supported Pan Africanism, said he was not and never had been a member of the ANC and did not feel himself bound by an agreement not to make statements to the media, reached at a meeting with Mrs Winnie Mandela and Umkhonto we Sizwe's chief of staff, Mr Chris Hani.

"I was, in fact, opposed to the agreement," he said.

He described the meeting with Mrs Mandela and Mr Hani as "an attempt to smooth things over" because the ANC knew that those who had returned with him could do the organisation harm by

speaking out about the treatment they had received.

"They have declared war against us he said. The ANC security are out there looking for us, and they will kill us."

Mr Dlongwana he had been an organiser for the Port Elizabeth Civic Organisation, PEPCO and had helped to organise a bus boycott in the city in 1983.

He and a number of other involved had been arrested, but he and a few others had later been released.

This had caused suspicion against them.

"They thought we were sell-outs," said Mr Dlongwana.

He had experienced problems within Pepco, as a result of which he had decided to go and see the ANC in Lusaka in 1986.

He had been taken to the ANC's security centre in Lusaka, where he was interviewed by members of ANC security.

"They dismissed all of my statements and said I was a police spy," he said.

He had been accused of being involved in the disappearance of three "Port Elizabeth comrades".

Tortured

The ANC security officers had then tortured him, including beating him with iron rods, pouring hot water or tea on him, making him sleep in water on the floor of his "cell" and pouring fish oil and a tin of red ants on his head.

"Because I could not stand the pain of the torture anymore, I confessed; but I still say I am not a South African agent," he said.

Mr Dlongwana said he had then been taken to an Angolan prison, before being taken to the ANC's prison camp, Quatro.

Beatings of the prisoners by wardens had been continual. To his knowledge, two prisoners had died while he was there.

He said that because of the closure of ANC camps in Angola, he and other inmates had been secreted out of the coun-

try in April 1989 aboard a military aircraft and taken to an ANC prison in Uganda.

There, he had faced trial before an ANC military tribunal on what he called 49 "false" charges, and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

In protest, he had gone on a 31-day hunger strike in February this year.

Hospital

He had again been beaten up by prison wardens.

On June 10, he had embarked on a second hunger strike.

After 29 days, he had collapsed and was taken to a Ugandan military hospital.

"Before I was taken to hospital, the wardens brought a spade to me and said I should dig my own grave. I told them that if I died, the world would know I had died on hunger strike."

It was shortly after this incident that he and 31 others had been released;

Mr PATRICK DLONGWANA, who claims he was tortured by the ANC and that "ANC security" will kill him and others who talk about their experiences.

