

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Western Cape

PRESS STATEMENT

Date Issued: 7 October 1991

On Saturday 5 October at about 16h30 two members of the ANC regional executive committee arrived in the KTC squatter area shortly after several shacks had been set alight. They were Willie Hofmeyr (assistant secretary) and Vincent Diba. We refer to the attached statement of the events that they witnessed.

We condemn in the strongest terms the behaviour of the policemen on the scene. Their actions are a flagrant breach of the provisions of the National Peace Accord signed by the government.

The ANC demands an immediate investigation into these breaches and that a full explanation must be given for their actions. Unless action is taken against policemen who breach the peace accord, we fear that the implementation of the accord will be doomed from the start.

We also want to express our serious concern about the fact that a policeman was seen on the scene in a balaclava when we had been given a categorical assurance by Gen van der Westhuizen that policemen are not allowed to operate in balaclavas.

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Statement by Willie Hofmeyr and Vincent Diba

We arrived at KTC at about 4.30 pm on Saturday 5 October. Shortly after our arrival several fire engines arrived under police escort.

While the police were on duty, several members of the public pointed out a member of the police whom they alleged had been part of a group of men who had set alight the shacks a while earlier. Another person also alleged that the police member had assaulted her and thrown teargas into her home.

Once the police had completed their duties, we approached the policeman concerned. It was with great concern that we noted that he did not wear a name tag as is provided in paragraph 3.2.4.5 of the National Peace Accord.

We then requested that he give us his name as there were members of the public who wanted to lay a charge against him. He refused to do so on about four occasions despite the fact that informed him that the NPA makes explicit provision for policemen to give their names to the public.

We then approached a sergeant who appeared to be in charge of the operation. He also refused to supply us with his name or the name of the constable concerned despite several requests. Again we pointed out that the NPA makes provision for policemen to wear identification and to supply their names to the public.

Eventually the sergeant and constable started running away from us towards their vehicle. We followed them. When we arrived at the vehicle, we saw a policeman sitting inside the vehicle with a balaclava on. We were not sure that this the same person that we had been following, but it appeared to us to be highly irregular as the Gen van der Westhuizen had previously given us the assurance that no policemen are allowed to operate in balaclavas.

However, when we tried to enquire about the presence of this person, the door was forcibly shut in our faces.

We continued for about 10 minutes to get the names of any of the policemen on the scene, but all of them refused to give their names. None of them were wearing name tags. Thus it was made impossible for us or members of the public to identify them in any way.

The only clue we have to their identity is that the number plates of the police vehicles concerned were BDL773B and BHL054B.

The policemen appeared to be attached to Riot Unit 11, which is not the local unit.

For further information, contact:
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