

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Western Cape Region

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ANC Western Cape

PRESS STATEMENT

16 February 1992

Re: Attack on KTC 15/02/92



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ANC Comment:

We believe that this attack follows the sinister pattern set in the last few months of the taxi war. The police appear unwilling to intervene and stop attacks on communities and are seen by the community as supporting one side in the taxi war. The regular presence of armed white men in such attacks lends credence to the theory that a third force is manipulating and using the conflict in the Western Cape to destabilise ANC strongholds.

Until the SAP starts to play an impartial role in the present conflict there is little hope of peace. At this stage communities like KTC have completely lost trust in the police as a result of their partiality and obvious reluctance to provide proper protection against a series of attacks that have taken place over the past few weeks.

Background Information:

About 6am on Saturday 15 February an attack was launched apparently by Webta taxi drivers and a number of white men on part of the KTC squatter camp near the Nyanga bus terminus.

Eyewitnesses report that a group of 15 men armed with firearms, backed up by about twenty men armed with pangas and axes entered the camp and started shooting at shacks. Three white men dressed in plainclothes were seen among the first group. A SAP van was parked near the cars and taxis that brought the men to the camp.

Mr Elliot Bolani and his son were both wounded while watching the shooting from inside their shack. Mr Bolani saw a white man with a handgun shooting at him. Windows were shot out in a community hall and a number of shacks. Two Lagunya taxis were set alight and burnt out.

The attack lasted for about 15 - 30 minutes. Residents claim that police did not intervene during the attack. Afterwards police casspirs drove around the area and dispersed residents who had gathered near the boundary road.

More than a dozen cartridges and bullets were picked up in the area. Most of them were marked R1 MI and seemed to come from rifles. A number of 9mm cartridges were also found.

Both UMAC and Black Sash monitors took statements on the scene and further information is available from them.

Issued by: Willie Hofmeyr Assistant secretary (25 3844 code 6564)

For more information contact: Rose Campbell 448 5651

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