

# Political Prisoners in South Africa

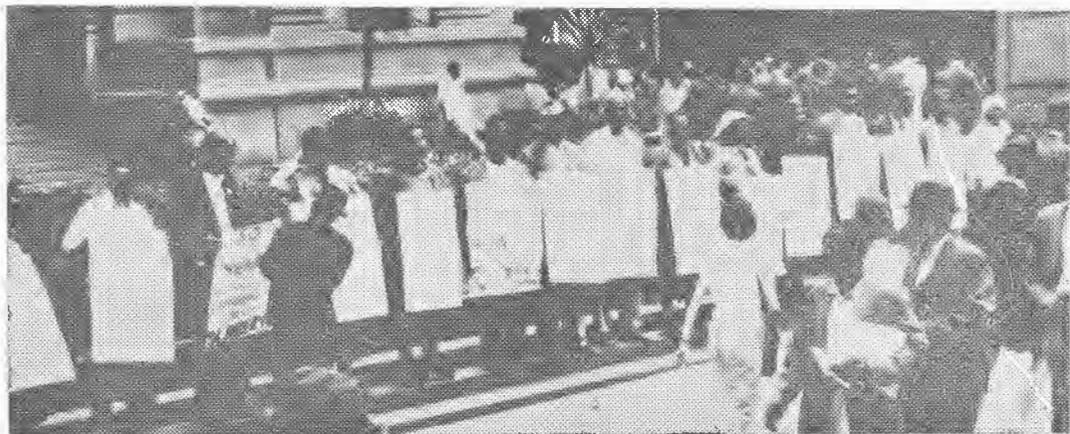
The Republic of South Africa has become virtually one big concentration camp where more than 12 million Africans are submitted in their own land, to the worst form of exploitation and to inhuman conditions of slavery under a special type of colonialism (apartheid wielded by a white minority of three million racists).

Not only are many heroes of the South African freedom struggle languishing and dying in countless jails, but hundreds of thousands of Africans are confined in the "black only" reservations set up according to the

policy of "separate development" preached by the Johannesburg fascists. In Soweto, one of the reservations, there is only one successful business: funerals.

The South African press itself published the following. "More than 1,000 Africans are arrested every day due to problems with the passes which they are obliged to carry. In 1959, every two seconds throughout the day a prisoner in some part of South Africa was beaten. Between June 1962 and June 1963, 17,394 prisoners received 82,206 whippings. Up to 1960, 68 people were hung





every year. In 1963, 120 were hung and in 1964, 89. The number of prisoners has almost doubled since 1954 and at present, one of 44 South Africans is imprisoned”.

More than 8,000 revolutionary leaders, cadres and activists of the national liberation organizations are being held in dreadful prisons such as that of Robben Island. About fifty political prisoners have been sentenced to death, among them, labor leader Viyisile Mini, who went to the gallows shouting the war cries

“Freedom for the Nation” and “Power for the people”.

But as was pointed out in the First Solidarity Conference of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, the people of South Africa are not remaining passive. Many patriots work and plan for the realization of the dreams of the oppressed, and the resistance to white domination has now entered the phase of armed struggle.

The Political Commission of the Tricontinental Conference condemned colonialist and imperialist domination in South Africa, and called upon all the participants to act in order to: 1) carry out a complete economic, diplomatic, cultural and sports boycott and to declare an embargo on shipments of petroleum and war materiel; 2) strengthen the National Organization for the Liberation of South Africa and its armed units, by giving them all possible material and moral assistance; 3)

demand that the South African racist regime unconditionally set free all political prisoners; and 4) overthrow the Ian Smith regime in Rhodesia and the fascist Salazar colonial regimes in Angola and Mozambique, and do everything possible to further the national independence of the African peoples who are oppressed in these countries.

If the spirit of unity and armed resistance gains ground and if international solidarity is strengthened, the coming months may witness hard blows against the criminal tyrannies of the white minorities in the countries in the south of Africa. These regimes hold back the progress of the continent and are a permanent threat to peace the world over.

