
Interview: Mwezi Twala

We should not rely on the IMF, World Bank

Mwezi Twala is a former African National Congress (ANC) commissar, and now the chairman of the Returned Exiles Coordinating Committee, comprising many former ANC members who were put through ANC torture and detention camps in Angola and elsewhere. He is also the regional organizer for the Vaal Triangle region (south of Johannesburg) for the Inkatha Freedom Party. He was interviewed on June 28.

EIR: Could you comment on Terre Blanche, whose AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] party led a violent action against the Multi-Party Conference negotiations on June 25? Do you think he is an agent of some intelligence services, either directly, or in a manipulated way?

Twala: I think that is true. Although I think that he might not be working for any intelligence service, people around him, his lieutenants, might be. I think Terre Blanche is just an ignorant orator. He is quite an orator, but he is not that clever. Some people are just using his prejudices and his fears and his ignorance to push him in a certain direction.

This right-wing group of Terre Blanche is not really a Nazi or neo-Nazi type of organization. But it is just that it is composed of the most illiterate amongst the Afrikaners. And they have these fears. They have lived a privileged life during the years of apartheid, because of the color of their skin. And now it is very, very difficult for them in this new type of setup, because the skin color is not going to give them privileges any more.

So they have those fears. And I think that if we address their rights as a group, and assure them through constitutional dispensations, they will be quite satisfied. And I think on the other hand, also, the racist slogans that are being pronounced by members of the African National Congress, as well as their racist actions of killing isolated farmers in their backyards, this exacerbates their fears. It's not just that their fears are baseless, as Mandela would like to portray it, but, practically, they have been slaughtered in the countryside, on their isolated farms.

And this is a deliberate destabilization by the ANC to try to move them out of their farms, because according to the ANC, they would like to nationalize farms whose owners are absent. This is the problem. They are trying to force these farmers off their land so that in the near future, if they become the government, they can nationalize most of these farms.

EIR: Do you think that it is the ANC that is doing the killings, or is it perhaps some third force which wants to exacerbate tensions and cause civil war?

Twala: No, the ANC is involved in this, because most of the people who have been arrested for committing such crimes have been found to be members of the ANC. All their propaganda machinery—they have been trying to put the blame on APLA [Azanian People's Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Pan-African Congress, PAC]. And I think that the De Klerk government is also making a lot of noise about APLA and the PAC. And yet the people actually involved in these killings are ANC members.

Recently, the president of the PAC requested a meeting with the farmers to settle this problem once and for all—that they are not involved in these killings. Most, in fact almost all, of the key suspects who have been arrested for causing these killings have been ANC members, or some of them are Cosatu-affiliated people [Cosatu, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, is the ANC-affiliated trade union federation].

Because that is how they recruit and organize farm workers for Cosatu. And then, through that Cosatu organization on the farms, they are able to get exact information, reconnaissance information, about the location of the farm, the routine of the farmer, his defenses, and so on. And they are able then, using that reconnaissance information, to attack these farms. So the PAC is not aligned to Cosatu.

It is a policy to destabilize farmers so that they move out, so that they can implement their policy, when they are in government in the near future, or in power-sharing with the National Party. And they, according to the ANC, would like to settle the land question. And they say the land question has to be solved by nationalizing some of the farmlands, especially those with absentee landlords. So that is how they are already trying to prepare for that.

EIR: How does the Inkatha Freedom Party see the future?

Twala: Well, I would say that the IFP is the only party in South Africa currently which has the correct policies for a future for all, a peaceful future for all, which can bring about an improvement of the economy, as well as address the problems of the impoverished blacks who have suffered during the apartheid era. It is the only such organization, and I think a lot of moderates realize this and are coming in. We are winning a lot of Afrikaners into our party, throughout the country. At the moment, besides the Afrikaners, English-speaking whites are also coming in droves into our party.

The track record of the IFP speaks for itself, since its inception. Our leaders have always been advocates for dialogue, for negotiations for the resolution of the problems of South Africa. They have never wavered from that even at the time when the ANC was mounting a lot of pressure on the IFP leadership, especially on Chief [Mangosuthu] Buthelezi, that he should endorse the necessity for armed struggle. That



Chief Minister of KwaZulu Mangosuthu Buthelezi addresses 80,000 people at a stadium in Durban at the founding of the United Workers Union on May 1, 1986. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party has 1.3 million members.

was in 1979. And his predictions, when they were pressuring him to support their call for sanctions against South Africa, that the sanctions against the economy of this country would affect the blacks mostly, has been vindicated. This is really what is happening. And violence is consuming the country. Because, he said, he didn't care whether it is liberation violence, violence will consume our people, and this is happening. All his predictions have been vindicated.

EIR: On this question of the economy, clearly there have been intense discussions between the ANC and the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. What sort of role are the IMF and the World Bank playing right now in South Africa?

Twala: It is not only the ANC. The National Party government is also looking forward to loans from the IMF and the World Bank.

We feel that we don't need loans from the IMF and the World Bank! If we really need funds for the government, we can tighten our belts and loan out from our own savings, from our own pension funds. Loan out to the government to embark upon projects without tying this country to an IMF debt which has ruined almost all African countries and developing countries of the world. Because they are debt-ridden and they can no longer pay them anything and their economies are under the hands of the IMF. They are being controlled from there, their resources and *everything*. They are just paying endless debts. So I feel these people are leading us toward the cliff, where we will not be able to recover.

EIR: You are perhaps familiar to some extent with the programs of American economist Lyndon LaRouche for a sovereign national banking system and the development of the physical economy, with emphasis upon building great infrastructure projects and so forth. What do you think of this approach as the basis for sovereignty for everyone, of all

colors in South Africa, as opposed to the IMF policy?

Twala: I haven't studied that a lot, but as I scanned through them, his economic policies seemed to be sound to me. They seemed to be pointing a way forward for us developing countries. But this has to be done with the cooperation of the developed countries who will provide the technology and the necessary science that will be required for such development.

But then I think you need these developed countries, particularly the United States, to have a change of heart. Instead of looking at us from the point of view of subjugating us to their economies, they should understand that the development of our economies, of Third World countries, will also bring about more progress in the United States. It would be beneficial to all mankind as such. That would make us leap forward, to advance in all fields on our planet—space technology, everything. We will advance, we will surge forward toward the future, because all the brains of the world will have the potential and opportunity to be developed. And we won't have these conflicts which are currently consuming most continents of our planets, like in Bosnia, like in Africa here, the problems faced by Somalia, the perpetual famine and starvation that is occurring in Africa. These would come to an end and people would pursue useful lives throughout the world.

EIR: Chris Hani, the secretary general of the South African Communist Party and former leader of Umkhonto we Sizwe, was killed not long ago. Do you have any idea who was responsible for his death, or why he was killed?

Twala: I think that the Chris Hani death has benefitted only the ANC and no one else. So I really do not know. I think the ANC has benefitted from it, though it might also be in the interest of some foreign powers who are interested in promoting conflicts in our country and making South Africa very poor, to destroy its infrastructure and everything. And also to destroy our traditions and values.