

CIRCULAR NO.
12/63

THE BLACK SASH

file

CIRCULAR TO ALL REGIONS

HEADQUARTERS REGION

37 Harvard Buil
Joubert Street,
JOHANNESBURG
3rd May, 1963.

GENERAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL 1963,

We demonstrated in Johannesburg six times during three days - the Posters were "Minister of Justice Destroys Justice". Innocent or Guilty - the Courts Not the Cabinet must Decide". "Protest against Vorster's Bill". "Detention without trial is not Justice"

Telegrams were sent as follows :-

Mrs. Helen Suzman "Let your lonely stand not deter you.
History and our Children will defend you".

Sir de Villiers Graaff "Stunned by your betrayal of the Rule
of Law. History and our Children will
condemn you."

THE State President "Your Excellency, In the cause of Justice
we appeal to you as a lawyer, as a past
Minister of Justice now holding the highest
office in the land to use your prerogative and
refuse to sign the General Law Amendment Bill
1963. The Provisions of this Bill abro-
gate the Rule of Law negate the fundamental
principles of Habeas Corpus and are contrary
to justice. South Africa has always proudly
upheld the Rule of Law and we beseech you not
to destroy something fundamental to our way of
life and not to endorse an act which will make
our country an outcast from Western Civilization."

All of these telegrams were given excellent publicity in the
"Rand Daily Mail".

BANTU LAWS AMENDMENT BILL DEMONSTRATION

The following is a (translated) extract from "Dagbreek en
Sondagnuus" of 28th April, 1963.

"BLACK SASH PLANS MOTOR CONVOY Members of the Black Sash are
alleged to be organising a "silent" protest against forthcoming
legislation. They are planning a motor convoy which will proceed
to Cape Town from different places.

The various convoys will all meet at Green Point Common in
Cape Town when the second reading of the Bantu Laws Amendment Bill
opens in Parliament. From the Common they plan, so Dagbreek
hears, to arrange a procession to the Houses of Assembly. Yesterday
some of their committee members were still in Cape Town where the
plans for the procession were discussed."

This was immediately denied in the "Rand Daily Mail" of
29th April. We have no idea where Dagbreek got this information.

MAGAZINE It would be appreciated if all regions will give
at least two months' notice of any change in the number of
magazines required. Mrs. Fleming will be pleased to receive as soon
as possible the numbers of paid-up members for the period 1962 -
1963, for the purpose of sending levy accounts.

R. M. JOHNSTON
HON. SECRETARY

THE BLACK SASH

Transvaal Region - Advice Office
Report for April, 1963

Total number of cases	51	New Cases in April	18
Endorsings out	26		6
Workseekers	6		1
Permits	11		7
Rent	3		1
Miscellaneous	5		3

Of these 26 cases are pending, 25 closed (including 10 successful)

Observations

We have had no new cases from Alexandra, which is worrying. The woman for whom we obtained an extended permit in March disappeared before the permit had lapsed, and before an appeal to the Chief Bantu Commissioner could be mounted.

Most of the people now coming, visit us before they are actually endorsed out - or long afterwards.

We have been able, in some of the former cases, to get them offers of work in order to regularise their position. In the case of young men and boys of education there is great difficulty. We have twice been told that J.C., Matric and even B.As., are so common that there is no hope of placing them. When their student permits lapse, they are told to go back to the reserves.

One lad, J.C., bursary to Kilnerton was advised to get his matric at Demelin College, while working part time. The Bantu Commissioner, in his area was helpful. He tried for some months to establish himself here, but eventually was informed that he was only permitted to work on farms or mines. We put him in touch with a Mining House who appeared ready to offer him a clerical job. This lad said, "They tell us to get educated and then they send us away where we can't get work. There is no work for me near my home. Even the Native Commissioner's office is staffed by clerks from Johannesburg".

Another young fellow had been at Hammanskraal with his grandmother. At about the time he got his matric his grandmother died. He tried to get a job in Johannesburg near his widowed mother, who lives in as a domestic servant. The most he can expect is a one month visiting permit.

Some people disappear after consulting us and we do not know what happens to them. Two of these have recently been found to have been satisfactorily settled.

Senior municipal officials, and in some cases township superintendents, have been courteous and patient

B. BROCK
ADVICE OFFICE SUPERVISOR.