

Julia N/ Vosloorus – Zulu Section

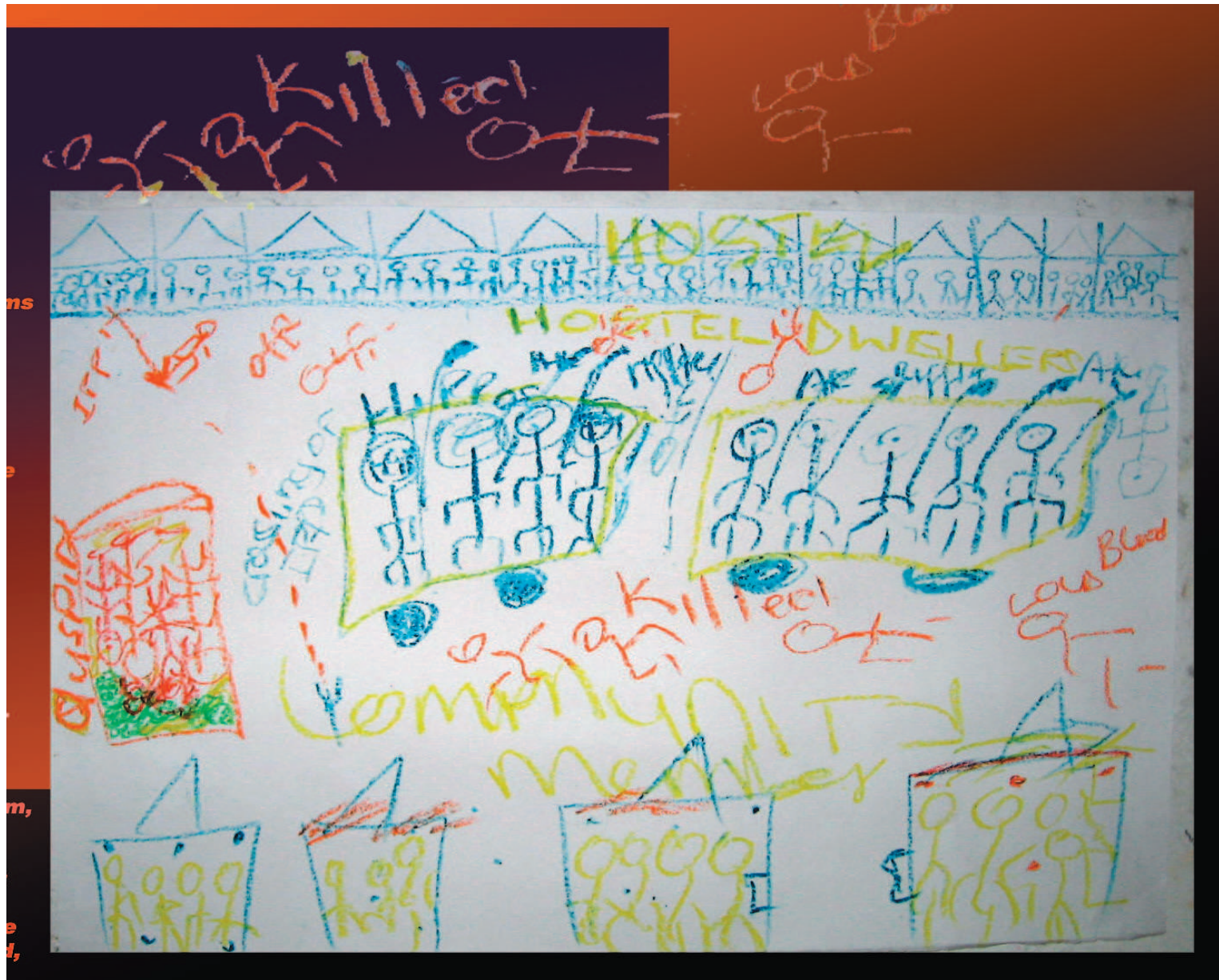
Julia N (not her real name) does not want to be identified – she is now living in a hostel where her former enemies live. She is aware that these issues are unresolved and have not been dealt with by these people. She believes exposing herself could be dangerous.

At the beginning of the violence in 1990, Julia was living with her family near the Nguni hostel in Zulu section. At this stage the hostel was a mixed community (Sothos, Xhosas and Zulus). One night she heard noise in the night, a lot of people crying – she didn't know what was happening. The next morning there were roadblocks and no transport to get to work. "The Zulus were very angry ... there were many in MC Botha Street ... the soldiers took bodies that were lying in the streets into the hostel ... most of the dead were Xhosas ... we couldn't go to work.... Xhosa-speaking hostel dwellers were running away."

After this there were attacks on residences in the location from the hostel. Julia's brother –who lived in the family house –was abducted by hostel dwellers who came to the house in 1992. This was during a period when the rumour was that the hostel dwellers would kill or chase away all the men in the location, and a lot of people were running away at that time. The family found her brother's body, stabbed and burnt, in Diepkloof mortuary (in Soweto – on the far side of the Rand).



Pic: Press photograph of police escorting an armed IFP crowd in the early 1990s -- visually echoed in Julia's drawing opposite.



There were many rumours about spies, worries about who could be trusted.

Relations between the community and the hostels before the violence erupted had been relatively good – it wasn't really clear what led to the breakdown and rapid escalation of violence in the early 1990s.

Julia drew strong images about certain things. She shows bodies thrown into municipal dustbins. She commented on relationships with the police: "sometimes they did a good job, and protected us ... others say they were the perpetrators .. white soldiers with blacked up faces .. those in blue uniforms, they did protect us near the hostel"

After her brother was killed, Julia ran away from the family home to her sister's place in Rockville, Vosloorus. She stayed there for 10 years. But an incident at her workplace prompted the move - Julia also experienced violence in the workplace.

Julia worked at that time at a factory in Boksburg, where she was a shop steward. There was conflict on the shop floor between Zulu elements who were opposed to the union and seen as collaborating with management – "The Zulus wanted to kill the shopstewards, they didn't understand issues of workers' representation. The situation at work was very dangerous – some people were killed – the names of shopstewards were on a list". Youths from the hostel armed with automatic weapons came to the house looking for Julia, but she gave them the wrong information claiming the person they were looking for lived in another street. This incident prompted her to flee.

13/1 52 unclaimed bodies in Germiston mortuary.

26/1 Lawyers for Human Rights call for independent inquiry of Phola Park violence; produce 20 affidavits claiming that whites in blackface were among the attackers.

25/3: Police attack "illegal" ANC meeting in Daveyton, shooting 11 (later said to be 18) plus one policeman killed. 17 bodies found in Alex and Tembisa over weekend.

On-going violence and deaths occur throughout this period, reports of bodies "found" in townships without descriptions of specific attacks, or causes of deaths. April 5: police say 320 deaths occurred in Thokoza alone since August 1990. 32 Battalion sets up an armed base in the centre of Tokoza.

8/4 Inkatha holds rally in Emdeni Stadium near Kattlehong; Inkatha supporters now living in Mandela camp say they are attacked by people from Holomisa squatter camp (many of whom said to be refugees from Mandela camp); 6 killed. Holomisa residents say Inkatha attacked them first. Police put razor wire around Mandela camp. In the next two days, eighteen people die and 200 shacks are destroyed.

11/4 Kattlehong, Vosloorus and Thokoza declared unrest areas, 9pm to 4 am curfew.

1/5 (May Day) gunmen in car shoot dead 5 men, 1 woman, all ANC supporters, at Natalspruit Hospital taxi rank; police shoot at youths going to Daveyton May Day rally, 1 killed.

6 die after peace rally

SABOTAN
8/4/91

SIX people were killed - four of them burned to death - following an Inkatha "peace" rally in Kattlehong on the East Rand yesterday.

Two more men died after being hacked and shot in the Mandela village squatter camp on the outskirts of the township in what witnesses claimed had been a lightning attack by rivals from the neighbouring Holomisa squatter camp.

The four charred bodies were found after a group of about 100 stoned and fired two shots at Casspirs, said police spokesman Major Dave Bruce.

He said another man was shot dead in Mpiki Street.

An Inkatha man was earlier accidentally

stabbed to death by a fellow-supporter at the rally.

While the man lay bleeding to death, IFP national chairman Dr Frank Mdlalose told reporters traditional weapons did not threaten peace.

"Traditional weapons have always been traditional weapons and have nothing to do with peace," he said.

A Sapa reporter saw the body of a man lying next to a shack. Riot police guarded the blanket-covered body and kept residents away.

A woman who did not want to be named said another man was killed by a

bouting Holomisa camp.

She said a crowd of men, who claimed they were looking for the ANC's crisis committee members at Mandela village, destroyed their shelters in the camp.

Police could not immediately confirm the reports.

A police unrest report said two bodies with hack and stab wounds were discovered at Jabulani hostel in Soweto.

In Soweto, an alleged Inkatha supporter was stoned to death by youths in Emdeni township after a "peace" rally.

Six other people were injured, according to Soweto police liaison officer captain Joseph

Grenades, shooting push death toll to 147

STAR 10/5/91

SIX ANC supporters were killed by AK-47 fire from an Inkatha hostel in Tembisa yesterday after a 2 000-strong crowd marched on the building, police said.

In another incident yesterday, two people were killed by grenade explosions in the western Transvaal, bringing the death toll this month to 147 - an average of more than 16 a day.

Police also reported the deaths, or discovery of the bodies, of a further 11 people in the Transvaal. Two people died in continuing unrest near Port Shepstone.

SAP spokesman Capt Eugene Opperman

JONATHON REES

said 2 000 "Xhosas" from Sethokga hostel in Tembisa, wearing ANC colours, marched to the predominantly Inkatha-supporting Vusi Mussie hostel yesterday. When they reached the entrance, they were fired on with an AK-47. Six died.

Patrolling police who heard the shots fired teargas to disperse the crowd. Last night they were searching the hostel for the murder weapon.

A matron at Tembisa Hospital said scores of people had been treated or ad-

mitted for gunshot and other wounds. Women and children sought refuge in the hospital last night.

Two people were killed and 31 injured in two grenade explosions when two groups clashed early yesterday morning in Hartbeesfontein's Tigane township, in the western Transvaal. Nine of the injured were in a serious condition yesterday.

ANC Youth League western Transvaal chairman Moeti Moiloa said ANC members had been preparing for a prayer service for peace when a group of about 30 "vigilantes" approached and stabbed one youth. Two grenades were thrown when

S/P
3/6/91

Phola Park squatters bring hostels down to dust

PHOLA PARK squatters have flattened the neighbouring Thokoza No 4/5 hostel complex, displacing about 6 000 inmates.

The area was the flashpoint of township violence which swept the country since last July.

Thokoza administrator Gert Muller said yesterday the former occupants had been rehoused at hostels in Thokoza and in neighbouring Katlehong.

"The squatters moved in and demolished the two hostels, taking building material for shacks in Phola

THEO RAWANA

Park and Zonkizizwe in nearby Katlehong," said Muller.

He said some squatters had resold building blocks taken from the hostels.

He said the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and urban consultants Planact were holding talks aimed at establishing family housing in the area.

The hostel once housed Inkatha members who fought against neighbouring squatters in violence which

spilled into Thokoza.

Father Peter Hortop, a Catholic priest who ministers to the community, said the squatters began chasing the hostel dwellers away from the area as early as last September.

"The Phola Park people demolished the two hostels with their bare hands," he said.

Hortop confirmed that the TPA and Planact were liaising to clear the hostel area and introduce a site-and-service housing scheme.

"We have great hopes that they will act soon," said Hortop.

10/5 2000 Xhosa hostel dwellers march to Tembisa's Sethokga hostel; people inside hostel fire on crowd, killing six.

12/5 800 IFP supporters attack Swanieville squatter camp, 29 killed.

3/6 Phola Park residents attack and demolish two Thokoza hostels, leaving 6000 hostel dwellers homeless.

24/7 7 killed in clashes between COSATU-aligned and IFP-aligned unions at East Rand factory.

17/08 ANC calls for stayaway to demand end to violence, progress in talks.

9/9 ANC and Inkatha plan to sign a National Peace Initiative. Gunmen shoot Inkatha group marching to a rally at Thokoza stadium, killing 23 people; Inkatha supporters kill residents in retaliation: within three days over 100 people killed (including shooting at people in busses, train stations) (see Michael Phama story, pages 24-27)

Goldstone Commission to investigate violence on East Rand.

30/9 Gunmen in car shoot dead Civic Association of Southern Transvaal general secretary Sam Ntuli in Thokoza; Mandela blames apartheid death squads.

8/10 Men in white minibus fire on crowd of 12000 at Sam Ntuli's funeral, despite heavy police presence: police report 18 dead. ANC says over 20 dead, including 3 shot by police in a hippo, and other police also shot crowd. ANC officials identify two police officers that mourners say shot them, and identify car registration number of police car used in shooting. Police and Defence force deployed.

11/10 Seven to 11 people killed in an attack on a minibus. Attack on a train in Wadeville kills 3 commuters, but commuters overwhelm gunmen; they are handed to police and hospitalized. One says he was offered R90 000 to attack train; police removed gunmen from hospital under guard, but apparently they were not brought to trial.

1/11: 6 SADF commando units deployed to East Rand trouble-spots

42 KILLED IN BLOODY SUNDAY

By Sapa and Erik Larsen
MORE than 40 people died yesterday in one of the bloodiest days on the Reef this year. A man was detained in connection with a Thokoza massacre which sparked off the violence, and are searching for others. Police said three AK-wielding men had fired at IFP supporters in Thokoza.

By late last night, the death toll from that and later attacks was officially put at 42, with more than 50 people injured as retaliatory attacks for the shooting swept Katlehong, Tembisa and Johannesburg. Police said they suspected Inkatha supporters were responsible for the retaliation. The bloody Sunday began when three gunmen sprayed IFP supporters

on their way to a rally with AK-47 fire, killing 18 and wounding 14 others. SAP and SADF members rushed into the township to prevent further bloodletting, but by nightfall the death toll had risen to 23. The violence did not end in Thokoza. Incensed by the killings, alleged Inkatha supporters took to the streets in Tembisa, also on the East Rand, and Johannesburg, where they attacked commuters and hostel dwellers. Police said two men had been killed in central Johannesburg — at Johannesburg Station — and Wanderers Street — and two "Xhosa-speaking" hostel inmates had lost their lives at City Deep Hostel, near the fresh produce market. In another incident, at Katlehong Railway Station, private security guards apparently fired at a large group of Zulu-speaking people who had disembarked from a train. The "Zulu-speakers" had allegedly been terrorising commuters.

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two journalists were among the injured — in clashes between IFP supporters and other residents in Mofolo. Fighting broke out after handgrenades were thrown into an Inkatha group on its way back from a rally in Dobsonville. "Five people were killed and six injured in the handgrenade attack in the Mofolo/White City area," said a police spokesman. Maj Reg Crewe, "I would imagine Zulus obviously launched retaliatory attacks after grenades were hurled at them." The deaths and random attacks brought into sharp focus the National Peace Initiative set to be signed by the government, the ANC and Inkatha. "The IFP appealed to the members to remain calm and give peace a chance, because we are in full support of the peace accord due to be signed between the ANC, the IFP and the government. "I want to emphasise that what happened at Mofolo was organised by the ANC in order to build up the tension, for no parent reason. "This looks like it intended to derail peace conference." "The circumstances determine whether peace accord will work or not. "I personally feel badly. As long as beings are dying it is acceptable and it stopped."

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Timeline: 1991