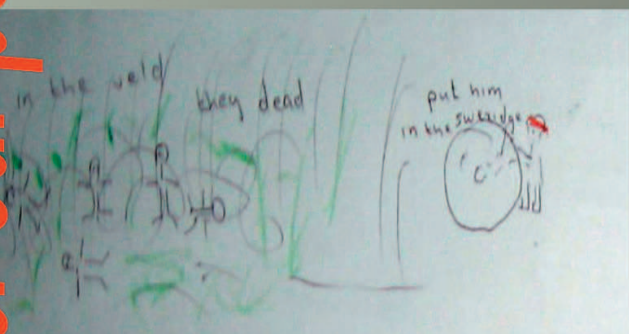


remember our people in Katlehong

This happened in Katlehong in 1993, at around eight o'clock. Earlier in the day, in Ramokonopi section, my brother's area, the hippos were killing people. My brother and his wife were already killed.

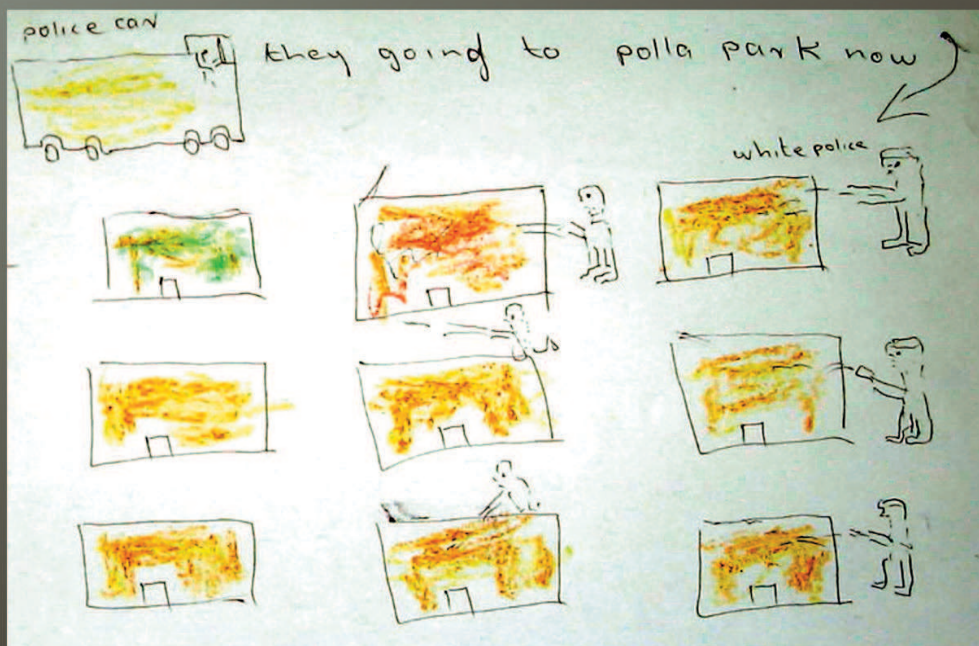


Then the Stability Force came to my place. The hippo came to the first house. In the first house the man died immediately. Then at the second house, the person tried to climb out the window, this one was killed trying to get out. In the third house they tried to run – they killed one here, a small boy. Here, inside the house, they killed everyone. They smashed this baby against the wall, killed him. Here, the person tried to hide on top of the roof.



Across the open space, people tried to run. They faced the stability unit from the other side; while the people from the hostels came across the veld from this side, chasing them through the veld. The bodies were lying all over the place.

Hippos were running towards Pholo Park, shooting the squatter camps. I managed to survive but I was hurt.



the leg is weak doesn't work anymore
1993
and I no longer working

In the hospital, it was full, people were dying, doctors were unable to help, not enough nurses.

Now, today, this leg is weak, so that I cannot work. No sebenza. But when I went for a social grant, they say I still am fresh, I am not seriously disabled. Recently I did get a six month disability grant, but I am not sure if they will continue that.

Catherine M/

Katlehong – Mofokeng Section

(not her real name; she asks that her name is not used)

Catherine had several experiences of violence during the early 1990s, including taxi violence.

1993 was a bad year; the situation had been bad for some time. Catherine's house was on a corner opposite to the veld around Nyoni Park. During that year, bodies were found in the veld. Catherine moved her children to her mother's house in Motlounge Section.

On 7 July 1993, people attacked Mofokeng section about 8pm. Catherine was inside the house the whole time of the attack; later, she was told that the attackers came from Kwesine hostel (a local IFP stronghold) and had been escorted by the police during the attack.

IFP supporters (wearing red headbands, to identify themselves as IFP) entered Catherine's house, beat her, and shot her in the leg. They then looted her house, taking the TV, blankets, her possessions Catherine spoke of the terror, begging the attackers not to kill her.

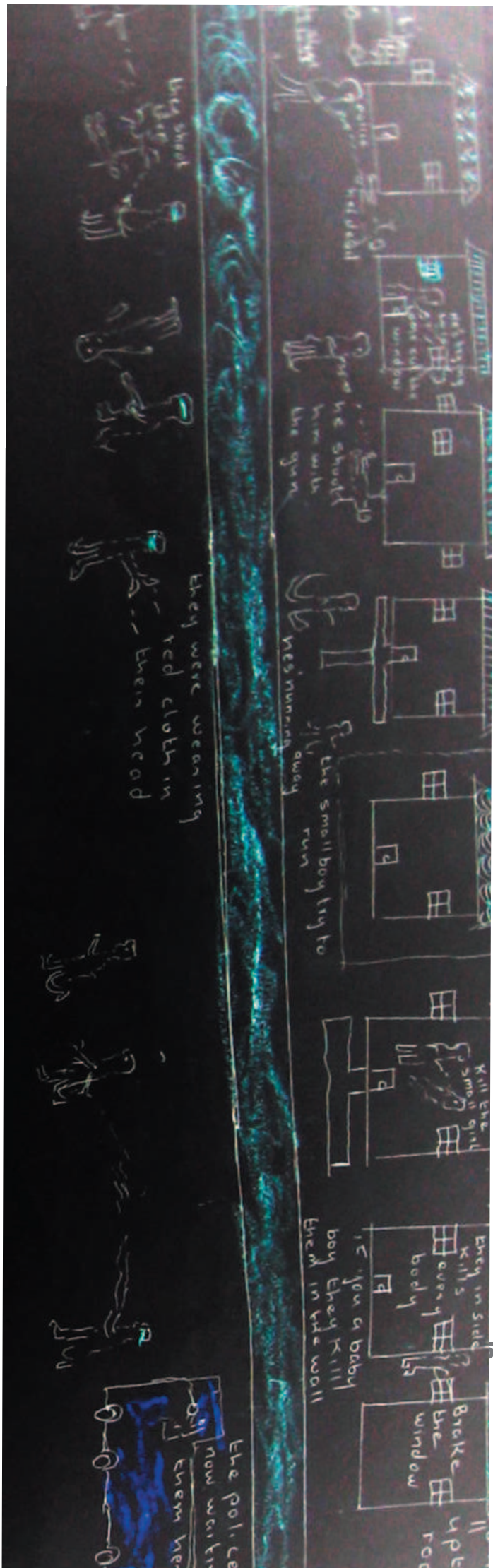
Catherine stayed in the house with a bullet wound and without medical treatment for several weeks – she eventually got to a police station to report what had happened and it was they who took her to the hospital,

On the same night, there were attacks in other sections of Katlehong including Ramakonopi Section, where Catherine's brother and his wife were living.

"On this day it was ordinary until I started hearing footsteps around the house. I ignored, unaware of anything and I tucked myself peacefully in my bed, They came in; even today, I don't remember any faces of these people. They came in and beat me hard – they meant business. I begged them not to kill me; I even told them if they stopped beating me I would let them take all the furniture – but it seems they were going to do that anyway. They took everything from the most important and most expensive sofa, to my hangers, They even took clothes"

"What hurts the most is that I got shot and on this very same day, my sister-in-law and my brother had the same thing happening in their house, but they were painfully beaten and the heartless hooligans had not heard at all and they were burnt in their house. It happens that they were half dead even before they were burnt, they were beaten with stones and dangerous weapons."

"These were difficult times in South Africa and the Riots
(the local term for the Internal Stability Unit of the police)



were beating everyone they thought was an enemy. Even innocent souls have been lost. We were later approached by these people and they told us these people attacked us because they thought 'siyi Mdlwembe' and we were not – in fact I was born in Motloung section."

Catherine was shot again in 1996 when she was 7 months pregnant.

Catherine did not give a statement to the TRC – she was told that she would be fetched to attend the hearing, but they never came to bring her there.

544 found dead East Rand since July 3: SA

By Sapa and
Vivian Warby

FIVE-hundred-and-forty-four people, not including policemen, have been found dead in the East Rand townships since July 3.

"The figure relates only to bodies of civilians we pick up on the scene with hack wounds and shot wounds," Sergeant Michelle Erasmus said yesterday.

Added to the number who died later of their wounds, and to the num-

ber of police killed, the total death toll was certainly higher.

The statistics came in the wake of another 24 hours of violence in the area in which eight people were found shot, hacked or burned to death.

Police said no arrests had been made in connection with any of them.

A 15-year-old Tokoza boy and a municipal

policeman, both gunned down by AK-47-wielding gunmen, were the latest victims of East Rand violence. Since July 3, nine policemen have also been killed in the unrest areas.

Statistics on the number of defence force members killed in the areas could not be obtained.

A 35-year-old municipal constable from the KwaThema police was

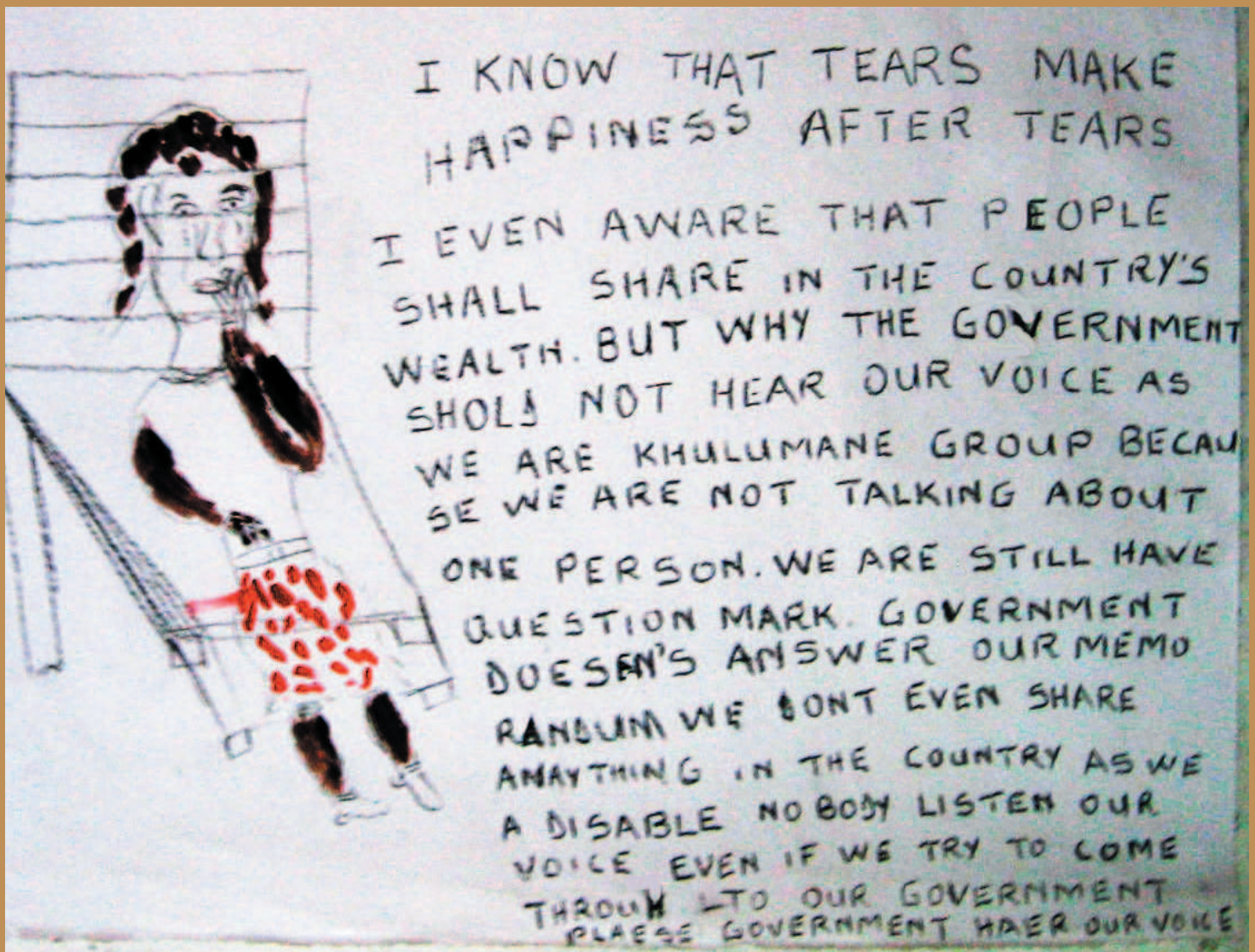
gunned down by AK-47 w...

The police shot in the b... stomach and ch... teen AK-47 rou... found on the sce...

The body of a year-old boy was found on Tekane Street, Tok... 10 am yesterday. I... who has not ye... identified — had shot in the...

36

"Catherine" spoke about living with this history means for her today:



Township battles rage on

By Bronwyn Wilkinson
and Happy Nkhoma

The carnage on the East and continued throughout last night and as dawn broke over the townships, armed hostel dwellers again took to the streets to resume pitched battles against other township residents.

As the violence entered its fourth day, police said 29 people were killed from 6.00 last night to 7 am today, bringing to 53 the number of people killed in the townships since Friday.

SAP spokesman Captain Wikus Weber said it was difficult to establish the exact time of the deaths or how the people had died.

"We don't know yet what happened because as morning comes, we start finding bodies and the culprits disappear," he said.

By late yesterday local police estimated that at least 20 people had been killed in running battles between IFP and ANC supporters during the day, but said the toll would rise during the night.

At about 6.40 pm, five people were killed when men armed with pistols opened fire on a minibus.

The attack occurred on Black Reef Road near the Leondale bridge in Voorpos, Katlehong.

Men armed with 9 mm and 7,65 pistols opened fire. Five passengers were killed and two injured. Police found a dozen 9 mm cartridges at scene.

Political organisations and the police, under the auspices of the Wits-Vaal Peace Secretariat (WVPS), met urgently last night to address the situation.

WVPS chairman Peter Harris said afterwards that the "possibility of setting up an urgent joint operation centre, involving the political parties and the SAP" would be pursued today.

Police warned motorists to avoid all roads near Katlehong and Tokoza, declaring the place a no-go area.

Police and the SA Defence Force have called extra troops into the area and are concentrating their efforts around the hostels.

All train services were stopped to Katlehong and Kwekwe yesterday morning because of sabotage and the threat of continued attacks on trains. Township streets were littered with burning cars and barricades.

According to monitoring group Peace Action, at least 14 houses were burnt in Katlehong yesterday.

Police said more than 12 vehicles were gutted.

As the sound of gunfire crackled around Katlehong yesterday, journalists were left scrambling to escape crossfire and flying rocks.

Outside the Tokoza hostel, which was attacked late on Sunday, hostel-dwellers armed with stones and sharpened weapons stopped cars at a barricade made of boulders and two burnt-out, overturned car wrecks.

Police also used an armoured barricade to prevent residents of the Kwekwe and Mazibuko hostels carrying out a threat to attack local residents.

Peace Action reported that vehicles had been hijacked and their occupants abducted into the hostels.

● From Page 1

And an ANC statement yesterday said people were being kept hostage inside the Tokoza hostel and "IFP members are allegedly demanding R50 from them to buy weapons".

The organisation demanded that the security forces search the Kwezine, Buyafuthi and Tokoza hostels.

But local IFP peace committee member Gertrude Msizi said in a statement: "It is clear that (Sunday night's) attack was timed to coincide with the recent disarming of hostel residents in a joint security force operation so that residents would be unable to defend themselves."

SAP spokesman Lieutenant Janine Smith said police believed the violence was mainly between supporters of the ANC and IFP.

"But beyond the political violence is the criminal element taking the opportunity to cause mayhem," he said.

By yesterday afternoon, women and children in Katlehong were abandoning their homes in terror.

Police said most of the dead had been shot.

The attack on the Tokoza hostel at midnight on Sunday/Monday set off a series of revenge and counter attacks which quickly spread from Tokoza to adjacent Katlehong.

Msizi said about 50 men with AK-47 assault rifles and hand grenades stormed the hostel.

She charged that she had called the SADF for assistance, but the promised help never arrived. An SADF spokesman said the call had not been registered in the log book. This would be

The massacre described in Catherine's story appears to have received no detailed coverage in the press. Rather the press describes police standing on the sidelines watching on-going fighting between township groups. On July 6, the day before the massacre Catherine survived, the press quotes police comments on the deaths that occurred the previous night:

"We don't know yet what happened because as morning comes, we start finding bodies and the culprits disappear."

On July 6 (the day before the attack in Mofokeng section) the ANC also demanded that the police search IFP hostels for weapons, including Kwezine, Buyafuthi and Tokoza hostels.

during the same period of attacks NomaRussia remembers:

In July 1993, my brother was in a train - the people from Phola Park and Dunusa used that train, and climbed off at Union Station. The police and soliders and IFP members were waiting for them at Union station that morning. My brother and two of his friends were killed.

I went to the mortuary: I had to go through a pile of bodies to identify my brother; they were packed like bags. I recognised him by his foot sticking out of the pile. This was where I saw the bodies of white soldiers with faces painted black, the bodies of children, women, packed outside, lying under the carport shade, lying there rotting. You start out there (under the shade), then you go to the cold storage, before you go to the drawers. I found my brother in a pile in the cold storage. That terrible situation traumatised me; it put me into an unhealthy condition.

“... thousands and thousands of bodies/ corpses were piled like hills inside and outside South Africa’s mortuaries, and some were left lying as fertilizer in the veld of the East Rand; some were like bags filled with sand by soldiers and used for protection, then left unattended after the battle...”

- Khulumani protest, Nov. 2007

unidentified bodies, mass graves, discarded people

Participants in the workshop stated that far more people were killed, shot, and disappeared than official records admit. They claim bodies were shoved into mass graves; and that these graves are known and can be located.

News clippings and even photographs from the time give support to such claims. One press item in 1991 talks of interring over 50 unclaimed bodies – although the mortuary and police denied that they were victims of unrest. Press clippings in 1993 record two separate occasions when the Germiston mortuary buried over 200 unclaimed and unidentified bodies from the unrest. Photographs throughout this period show bodies covered in black trash bags and shoved into police trucks. Other press stories mention that the Germiston mortuary overflowed, and the new mortuary built to handle the overload also overflowed; bodies were sent to Diepkloof and other places where they were buried as paupers. At one stage, church officials attempted to intervene, asking the authorities to make greater efforts to ensure that people were able to identify and claim their dead.

The official position claims that there are no “mass graves”. They say all unidentified bodies were buried in paupers’ graves (3 bodies to a grave, and each in a coffin).

There does seem to be sufficient evidence to call for an investigation into Khulumani’s claims of mass graves.



Mortuaries on the Reef were already full before this week’s surge of violence. For instance, this Germiston mortuary is overflowing and bodies have been dumped in an open backyard where they have rotted under the scorching sun. These victims of violence...



Residents watch in grief as the policemen remove the victims of yesterday’s carnage at Phola Park. Pictures by Mbuzeni Zulu

"I talk here about the disappearances. Those long holes that dead bodies were piled into – the big graves in the hostels, the big grave in Inunition Park. In the 1990s massacres people were shot and killed. We know where these graves are today.

"We need a monument which carries all the names of those missing and dead, which remembers all of them. Each location must have its own monument, with a large memorial in the centre of the East Rand, so that we know our history.

Khulumani must not give up."

- Michael Phama, 2007

