

ABOUT THE SAHA COLLECTIONS:

There are three collections in the SAHA archives relating to the history of ZAPU and ZPRA:

SAHA Collection AL3265 – The Zenzo Nkobi Photographic Collection

This collection, donated to SAHA by Dennis Goldberg in 2007, comprises approximately 10,000 negatives and slides created by Zenzo Nkobi, the majority of which have now been digitised.

Scope: The time frame of the collection is from 1976 up to the mid 1980's, with a few being slightly later than that. The vast majority are taken in Zambia in the later 1970s, and portray ZAPU's military activities, refugee camps, party activities, funerals, as well as some international meetings. Some were taken in Zimbabwe during the 1980 election campaign and later, reflecting a few post-Independence events. The photographs do not include any taken within Zimbabwe during the fighting, nor do they show actual fighting within Zambia, although they do include some of the damage suffered by ZAPU there as a result of Rhodesian air raids.

The photographer: The vast majority of photographs appear to have been taken by Zenzo Nkobi, as they were mixed with many which were purely personal. However, it is clear that some photographs are not taken by him as he himself is pictured. It is probable that others were the work of other ZAPU photographers such as Albert Ndindah, who was the chief photographer in the ZAPU Publicity Department.

Purpose of the photographs: Nkobi took most of these photographs as part of ZAPU's publicity work to provide documentation for the international community of ZAPU's activities and progress. During the pre-Independence years many were used to illustrate ZAPU publications, and copies will be found in the ZAPU magazine *Zimbabwe Review*. Many photographs of individuals are mug shot photos apparently taken for passport applications. Others are portraits of ZAPU leaders on different occasions and still others simply photographs of friends and their social activities, especially those taken after Independence. Some are photographs of public events which have little to do with ZAPU.

Previous Publication: It is believed that many of the photographs in this collection has not been published or displayed to the public. However, some were used in ZAPU publicity materials, and a number were included in the ZAPU-PF publication *Zimbabwe in the struggle: a contemporary documentation* (1978), a copy of which was donated to SAHA, along with the photographic negatives.

SAHA Collection AL3289 - The Mafela Trust Collection

The Mafela Trust organisation was established in 1989 by a group of ex-combatants of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) to research and document the political and military activities of ZAPU and its political wing, the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZPRA), during the liberation war in Zimbabwe. Records pertaining to ZAPU and ZPRA history, including war records, were confiscated by the government-led Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) in 1982 during the post-independence struggle, and never returned.

In the absence of a documented history, the Mafela Trust has been guided by their mission statement "When you go home tell them of us and say for your tomorrow we gave our today", to launch numerous national projects in an attempt to recoup what has been lost. Most notable of these projects are the 'Fallen Heroes' project - an identification and commemoration of those who died during the liberation war, and the 'War Graves' project – the location and subsequent exhumation of war graves. Further research and oral history projects bear testament to the Mafela Trust's determination to recover the ZAPU/ZPRA history, including documenting the history around the formal alliance with Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the military wing of the African National Congress (ANC).

The materials produced as part of these projects form the bulk of the Mafela Trust collection at SAHA and include paper-based and digital materials, photographs, oral history interviews and video material. These materials were identified as endangered in the course of a research, digitisation and oral history project conducted by SAHA in 2010 and 2011, and the materials were relocated to Johannesburg in 2011 for comprehensive archival processing, and digitisation.

SAHA Collection AL3291: The ZAPU / Zenzo Nkobi Oral History Project Collection

This collection is the result of the oral history component of a research project conducted by SAHA in 2010 and 2011, with initial funding from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in 2010, and the majority of the funds provided by the National Lotteries Distribution Trust Fund in 2011.

Twenty-six interviews were held, in which the interviewees were asked to explain the photographs and give the background to the events they depict. Each interviewee was asked to concentrate on one category, but some categories were handled by more than one person. Each was also asked to explain how and why he or she joined ZAPU and the struggle, and some added much more information about particular incidents they wanted to relate which were not connected to any photograph. The categories range from various aspects of military life – recruitment, training, operations - to life in the refugee camps, ZAPU administration and leadership, regional and international relations, as well as the 1980 election and political events after Independence. The interviews have not been edited but are presented verbatim.

Six of the interviewees were women and the rest men. This seems like a small proportion of women, but it must be accepted that the vast majority of the ZPRA cadres and of the ZAPU administration were male, so the balance is probably not unreasonable. The majority of interviewees were either military men – mainly in roles of command, but not all – or administrative personnel. Others had lived in the refugee camps as children, and one as a teacher. One non-Zimbabwean was interviewed as an activist from Canada who was instrumental in organising material support for the camps – Victory Camp and Freedom Camp farm – as well as political support for the liberation struggle within Canada. One interview was conducted on a topic which had not been identified and had no particular group of photos – that was with one cadre who was seriously disabled in a bombing raid while awaiting his military training, and discussed his experience as a disabled veteran, both before and after independence. Some of those interviewed are now elderly, representing those who joined the struggle as early as the 1950s or early 1960s, with the youngest being those who were children at the refugee camps, making them now around the age of 50.

ACRONYMS

AAPSO Afro Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation

ANC African National Congress

CGT Camp for Guerrilla Training

FC Freedom Camp

FRELIMO The Liberation Front of Mozambique, the Portuguese Frente de Libertacao

FROLIZI The Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe

GDR German Democratic Republic

JZ JZ Moyo Camp

MK Umkhonto we Sizwe (armed wing of ANC)

MOU Memorandum of Understanding

MWHA Matopo World Heritage Area

PAIGC African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (Portuguese: Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde)

RSA Republic of South Africa

SWAPO South West Africa People's Organisation

UN United Nations

UNIP United National Independence Party

VC Victory Camp

ZANLA Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (armed wing of ZANU)

ZANU Zimbabwe African National Union

ZANU-PF Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army-Patriotic Front

ZAPU Zimbabwe African People's Union

ZIPA Zimbabwe People's Army

ZPRA Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (armed wing of ZAPU)