S. Africa activist detained

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Police have detained one of South Africa's most prominent political activists and banned a political rally in the first major crackdown on a 2-week-old nationwide civil disobedience campaign.

Mohammed Valli Moosa, spokesman for the anti - apartheid Mass Democratic Movement and acting general secretary of the United Democratic Front, was arrested by police during an afternoon raid on his Johannesburg office and whisked away three hours later in an unmarked car.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said U.S. officials had not been aware of Moosa's arrest, but said in general, "The United States has long supported the peaceful expression of political ideas. we condemn South Africa's system of racial segregation and urge the South African government to permit peaceful expressions of political dissent.

The defiance campaign was launched on Aug. 2 to demonstrate black rejection of the parliamentary polls under the leadership of the Mass Democratic Movement, which came informally into existence earlier this year to act as the mouthpiece for the restricted UDF.

The elections, regarded as the most important in the ruling National Party's 41 years in power, are for the white, Indian and mixed-race chambers of the country's tricameral parliament. The 28 million black majority is excluded from national politics.

Scores of blacks descended on whites - only hospitals in the first phase of the campaign, which is expected to target segregated education next week. Also, blacks are expected to flood segregated beaches in Cape Town.

MABOPANE, S. Africa — South African newly-weds Jerry Tsie and Annette Heunis kiss outside their home in Mabopane black township near Pretoria. They eloped two years ago after causing a storm in her conservative White hometown of Odendaalsrus in the Orange Free State province.

Rebels may talk

NAIROBI, Kenya — Mozambican rebels, in their first formal comment on unprecedented talks with Mozambican church leaders, expressed willingness Tuesday to continue trying to negotiate an end to the country's 14-year civil war.

The Renamo rebels, in a statements delivered to news bureaus in Nairobi, said last week's four - day talks addressed the withdrawal of foreign troops from Mozambique. Neighboring Zimbabwe keeps about 8,000 troops in Mozambique to protect its links to the sea from Renamo attack.

The Renamo statement called the presence of foreign troops "an obstacle to peace."

The Renamo statement said that in the talks, held under the auspies of the Kenyan government, "agreement was reached on the importance of an immediate end to the civil war."

One dead at game

PARIS — Seven spectators in Lagos, Nigeria, were trampled to death and a player collapsed and died on the field during last Friday's World Cup Soccer match between Nigeria and Angola, a French newspaper reported.

The spectators killed were among a crowd of 80,000 that crammed into the Lagos stadium to watch the match, according to the daily Liberation. Nigeria won, 1-0.

On the field, Nigerian right winger Sam Okwaraji collapsed from exhaustion and could not be revived. Another Nigerian player, Benjamin Okorogu, died similarly in 1982.

S. Africa police dogs set on crowds

SOMERSET WEST, South Africa — Police with guard dogs and quirts charged into a crowd of blacks protesting on a popular whites-only beach Saturday in a sharp crackdown on a two-week-old nationwide civil disobedience campaign.

Several police were bitten and police detained at least 12 photographers and television crew members from CBS, Tokyo Broadcasting, World Television News and local photographers working for foreign agencies.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was carried onto the beach on the shoulders of supporters, was uninjured in the early afternoon police action along the Strand, a popular beach in the conservative community of Somerset West, 30 miles southeast of Cape Town.

In downtown Johannesburg, police arrested 11 people, including two reporters, during a morning protest against the detention Friday of Mohammed Valli Moosa, one of South Africa's most prominent political activists.

Police waded into a crowd of about 150 blacks with batons after the demonstrators ignored orders to disperse, police Col. Frans Malherbe said. Arrests were made, he said.

Police cordoned off a 2.5-mile stretch of The Strand beach before dawn Saturday in anticipation of the protest. They posted signs saying, "Danger no entry, South Africa Police Dog training" over apartheid signs reading "Beach and Sea, Whites only."

At least two roadblocks manned by soldiers and police with heavy vehicles were set up to block demonstrators from attempting to enter Somerset West, but several hundred people managed to reach the area, including Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Police with guard dogs patrolled the beach. A yellow and blue helicopter landed near a group of about 100 people, mostly blacks, sitting on the beach, unloaded more dogs and handlers and chased the crowd back to a nearby parking lot.

Tutu wearing running shoes and a white Martin Luther King, Jr. sweatshirt in memory of the slain American civil rights activist, arrived and, with chants of "viva," was hoisted onto the shoulders of supporters and carried to the beach.

After he returned to the parking lot, chaos erupted, with police charging into a crowd of several hundred blacks with more than 20 dogs and quirts. A number of photographers and camera crews were arrested during the action.

Witnesses were unable to determine exactly how many people were bitten but some said dozens were attacked.

The attack took place in front of dozens of curious Whites of Somerset West looking down at the parking area from hillside apartments and stores crowded with morning shoppers.

Authorities have banned all public events scheduled for Sunday in Cape Town, where the restricted United Democratic Front was to hold a rally to declare itself free to engage in political activity, kicking off the third week of the civil disobedience campaign.

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LIFESTYLE

African Family Festival at Sojourner-Douglass

Photo by Ricardo Gray

Enjoying the camaraderie at the African Family Festival last week were Clara A. Green, Atu Takuma, Sharmage Carter, Yvette Patterson and Daniel Harpe.

Photo by Ricardo Gray

Nyabingi troupe performed with African drum sounds during the African Family Festival at Sojourner-Douglass College.

Social Notes

Mitchell-Carter wed

Laundretta Mitchell and James E. Carter were wed in ceremonies at Little Ark Missionary Baptist Church, Baltimore, August 12.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mitchell; the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Carter.

Ceremony was performed by the Rev. James Lee Carter, with attendants to the bride: Kathy Carter, Connie Mitchell, Charmaine Mitchell and Lashaunder Mullins.

Best man was Greg Carter with Lawrence Carter, Davin Carter and Eric Mitchell.

Slade-Lee engaged

The engagement of Sheila Slade, daughter of Mrs. Margie Johnson Slade of Parkside and Major R. Slade of Berea, to Michael Garry Lee of Northwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lee of Edmondson has been announced by her parents.

The Bride-elect is a graduate of the Catholic High School of Baltimore and Towson State University.

She also attended the Peabody Conservatory Preparatory Department and is currently enrolled in the School of Nursing at Union Memorial Hospital.

Her fiance is a graduate of City College and Towson State University. He is employed with Signet Bank of Maryland as a credit analyst.

A November wedding is planned.

Marcus Garvey Day celebrated

Photo by Ricardo Gray

Charles Dugger takes the mike during the Marcus Garvey Day celebration.

Photo by Ricardo Gray

Baltimore Care Connection performs at the Marcus Garvey Day celebration. Bryant Bolling is director of the group.

She's 101

Photo by Ricardo Gray

Family and friends gathered recently to celebrate the 101st birthday of Mrs. Nannie Duckett (seated left). On hand to mark the day were L to R. standing: Hazel Chambers, Beverly Stephens, Frederica Howard, Harold Stephens, Henry Mays and Shirley Mays. Also seated, Ena Howard and Mrs. Georgia Stephens, sister of Mrs. Duckette, who is 89.

Columbia Capers

Mrs. Sondra Gray and Councilman C. Vernon Gray cut his 50th birthday cake.

By Pinnie Ross

It was an elegant affair. I call it a dual one where more than 500 well wishers and political leaders of the State came to the Sports Palace at Laurel Raceway to celebrate Howard County Councilman C. Vernon Gray's 50th birthday in conjunction with raising funds for his 1990 election campaign.

The evening's activities commenced with dinner service at about 6:45 PM and a receiving line including the honoree and his charming wife Sandra.

There were plenty of drinks of all descriptions, great food and fun betting the video races. Each guest was provided funny money to bet and to bid on items auctioned off towards the end of the evening.

The food including dessert was so beautiful and tasty that plates were piled high as if to say, "Forget the calories, who cares!!!!", Well, I did . . .

After dinner, John Billett, Event Chairman, came forward and introduced the handsome honoree, who is very quiet and has a serious look on his face at all times.

Dr. C. Vernon Gray is the hottest political figure in Howard County. Naturally he is Black and smart; with a Ph.D. in political science, he is a professor and chairman of the Political Science Department at Morgan State University.

The councilman smiled and thanked all of his supporters in attendance. He felt that the fundraiser was an excellent beginning for his 1990 campaign. $26,000 was raised.

He introduced one of his longtime supporters and mentor, a person who provided a scholarship to complete his education, State Comptroller Louis Goldstein.

Dr. Gray's supportive parents were present, as always, Mr. and Mrs. Major Gray had journeyed from Calvert County to be with their son. Uncle and Aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roberts came from Washington, D.C;

And cousin Peggy Holland and daughter Rhonda and his dear sister-in-law Donna Janney all were present to lend support, as were his children Angie and Michael.

Others in attendance included Dr. Ernest Colvin, Chairman of the Maryland Racing Commission, Tom and Bob Manfuso, co-owners of Laurel and Pimlico Race Courses;

Former Judge Billy Murphy, Businessman Otis Warren, Dr. Bruce Taylor, owner of Taylor Manor Hospital and Orphan Court Judge Marge Rapport.

Vernon called me last night to advise that he had attended the memorial service for his very good friend Frank DeFrancis who had taken ill in Florida and was not able to be present at his birthday celebration.

He said that DeFrancis will be remembered as the man who made Maryland racing a significant social event.

C. Vernon Gray is the first and only Black elected to office in Howard County government. He is serving his sixth term and has been Chairman twice.