

South African Catholics claim police wage 'campaign of terror'

Pretoria, South Africa (NC) — Police in the black "homeland" of Bophuthatswana have been waging a "campaign of terror" against Catholics and union members, according to a South African Church publication.

Women on their way to Bible classes, children on their way to church and nuns have been assaulted, detained and abused, according to *Inter Nos*, a publication produced by Noel Bruyns, press officer of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

In an article titled "Bop police 'victimize' Catholics," Archbishop George Daniel of Pretoria was quoted as saying that "this phenomenon smacks of religious persecution of the worst kind."

Bophuthatswana was one of several homelands established by South Africa within its borders in order to reduce the white-ruled nation's black population. Although four such homelands have been declared sovereign states by the Pretoria government, no other nation recognizes them as independent countries.

The *Inter Nos* article quoted from six affidavits of Catholics who claimed to have witnessed harsh treatment of Catholics or who were themselves the victims of such treatment.

"The police seem to have identified as particular victims of their campaign of intimidation members of the Roman Catholic Church, members of the trade unions, ... schoolchildren and youth," said Archbishop Daniel.

He said there are "large-scale and arbitrary arrests," and those arrested are generally detained for several days without being charged.

"During their detention, they are, however, almost invariably brutally and systematically assaulted and abused," the archbishop said. "Two female deponents claim that police raped them."

Sister Joan Moore, mother superior of the Christ the New Man Center Church in

Bophuthatswana, said that police from the town of GaRankuwa, "are focusing their attention on the Catholic Church and are executing a campaign of unlawful assault against people who meet on church property."

The *Inter Nos* article said that earlier

this year, the nun was "viciously assaulted by the Bop police while protecting a man in the church center."

In another incident, David Tokelo, a 16-year-old Catholic from the homeland town of Mabopane, was arrested in January, taken to a police station and "assaulted with pickax handles, batons and canes on his back," the article said.

After police asked who among the group was Catholic, "the policeman told us that we, the Roman Catholics, were causing 'the nonsense,'" he said.

"These policemen made the five of us blow up our cheeks, and then they slapped us very hard against the cheeks," he said.

"We had to push out our chests and then received blows across our chests with tackles. It was clear that I was receiving additional punishment because I was a Roman Catholic."

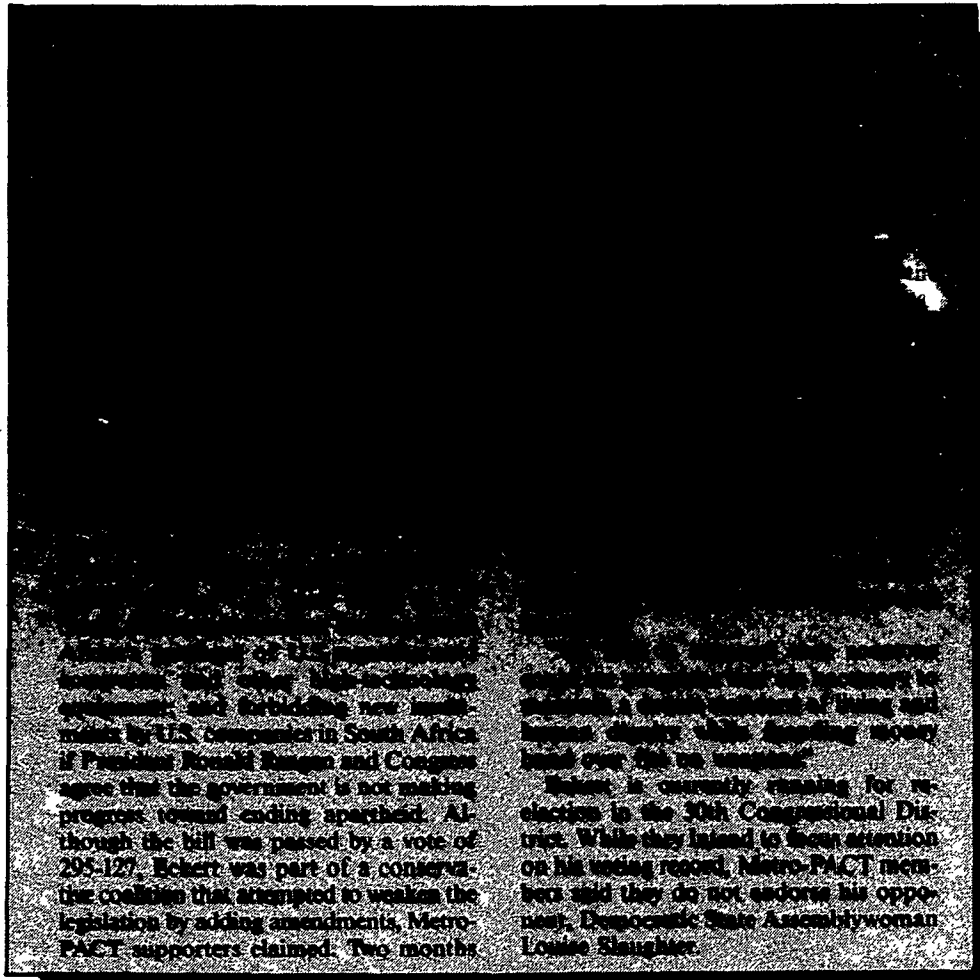
"I am now afraid to admit being a member of the Roman Catholic Church," Tokelo added.

Sister Thoko Victoria Dhlamini of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Mtholung, Bophuthatswana, said she was badly assaulted in a bus on her way home from night school last February. She said it was her "distinct impression" that she received harsher treatment than the others because of her clerical garb.

Another Catholic woman from GaRankuwa and a friend were stopped by police on the way to a Bible class.

The woman, Sophia Mabela, said police accused them of going to the church for a political meeting and told them not to go if they wanted to be left alone.

"Since we wished to avoid any further trouble and as I had heard of incidents involving police assault and intimidation of Catholic nuns and parishioners, we turned back and did not attend the Bible class that evening," Mabela said.



Former priest renounces Medal of Honor to protest U.S. support of Nicaraguan rebels

By Joe Michael Feist

Washington (NC) — A former Catholic priest who in 1968 was awarded the Medal of Honor for valor under fire in Vietnam has renounced the medal to protest U.S. policies in Central America.

At a news conference in the Capitol, Charles Liteky said it was "ironic" that "conscience calls me to renounce the congressional Medal of Honor for the same basic reason I received it — trying to save lives."

Also speaking at the conference were Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit and other religious leaders opposed to U.S. aid to Nicaraguan rebels fighting that country's Sandinista government.

In Central America "the art of diplomacy has given way to the artless use of brute force," said Liteky, believed to be the only recipient of the nation's highest military honor to relinquish it.

Liteky, 55, was an Army chaplain in Vietnam in 1967 when his company, which was participating in a search and destroy operation in Bien Hoa province, came under attack. During the ensuing battle, Liteky repeatedly braved intense fire in order to

reach and pull to safety about 20 wounded soldiers. Liteky himself was slightly wounded in the battle.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon Johnson in a White House ceremony Nov. 19, 1968.

"U.S. involvement in Central America is Vietnam all over again," Liteky said at the news conference. "Our advisers are there, our weapons are there, our logistical support is there, our money may soon be there in super abundance. And waiting in the wings for a cue from the president are U.S. combat troops."

Following the news conference, Liteky went to the black granite Vietnam Veterans Memorial and placed an envelope containing the medal against the base of the monument.

Liteky said he also will give up other benefits given to Medal of Honor winners, including a \$200 monthly stipend for life and free military transportation anywhere in the world.

Ordained in 1960 for the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity order, Liteky took the religious order name of Angelo. He served in the military from 1966

to 1971 and was a chaplain in Vietnam for two-and-a-half years.

Liteky said he asked for a dispensation from his vows in 1974 and was laicized in 1975. He married in 1983.

He currently serves as coordinator of the National Federation of Veterans for Peace in Washington.

Bishop Gumbleton urged the Senate to reject the \$100 million aid package to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as "contras." Already passed by the House, the package is scheduled for Senate vote early this month.

"The violence in Nicaragua comes from poverty and war. And unless the Senate rejects aid to the contras, our tax dollars will continue to finance much of this violence,"

Bishop Gumbleton said.

Other religious leaders joined Bishop Gumbleton in endorsing what they termed a "campaign of conscience" against U.S. policy in Nicaragua. Campaign organizers said they hoped to gain one million signatures in opposition to congressional aid.

Information night scheduled for adoptive, foster parents

People interested in foster care or adoption are invited to an informational meeting Wednesday, Sept. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Monroe County Department of Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road, Rochester. For information, call (716) 442-4000, ext. 409.

Call Us For A Free Market Analysis of Your Home Featured This Week



CITY SPECIAL
Unique floor plan on Genesee Park Boulevard priced way below FHA appraisal at only \$64,500. This 3 or 4 bedroom 1 1/2 bath is really an exceptional value.



SPACIOUS COLONIAL
In Penfield's "Village Green" Awaiting your inspection! Immaculate condition tastefully landscaped & decorated - cul-de-sac location - priced to sell \$119,000.



Robert Malone



Jean Herrera

Century 21

HOME SPIRIT

EAST 1945 East Ridge Rd. 467-3121
WEST 2709 Chili Ave. 247-7700

MID-SUMMER SAVINGS

ROOFING  \$300.00 OFF Complete Re-roof *Roof must be at least 1500 sq. ft. <i>Expires 9/15/86</i>	SIDING  \$500.00 OFF Complete Re-siding With Custom Trim <i>Expires 9/15/86</i>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

ADVENT REMODELING

Free Estimates • Fully Insured
266-2220



Always a Discount for Senior Citizens