



# AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

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### **NEW INFORMATION ON THE DEATH OF ABRAM ONKGOPOTSE TIRO**

Abram Onkgopotse Tiro, a former SASO Leader, Teacher and Activist was killed by a parcel bomb in Botswana on 01 February 1974.

Even at the time it was clear to all that the racist South Africa regime was behind the assassination of Tiro.

The general belief was that the parcel bomb had been forwarded from the International University Exchange Fund (IUEF) which was based in Switzerland. The belief was based on reports that the parcel bomb had Swiss postage stamps.

The belief then was that the Bureau for State Security (BOSS) had sent the parcel knowing full well that Tiro would not be suspicious of a parcel from the IUEF.

Tiro's mother approached the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to try and get answers on who killed her son. The TRC failed to conduct an in-depth formal investigation into the circumstances surrounding Abram Onkgopotse Tiro's death. Or if they did, they never informed the family about the outcome of such an investigation.

Information has come to light that we want investigated. This information is contained in an Affidavit.

The new information is that the bomb did not come from Switzerland. It came from inside South Africa.

The parcel was carried across the border by a person known to and trusted by Onkgopotse Tiro. The person delivered the parcel, left and only came back when he heard the explosion. He went to make sure that Tiro was dead.

The person came back to the house in the village referred to in the paragraphs above. He received a hero's welcome from those who had been waiting for him. He gave full details on how he delivered the parcel, including telling Onkgopotse Tiro to accompany him first before opening the parcel as he was in a hurry.

He told them that he had pretended to be leaving but hid somewhere until he heard the explosion. He went back and joined people who had come to see what was happening. He told them that Tiro's skull had been cut open by the explosion, and that pieces of flesh had been scattered all over, including on the walls.

After the traditional cleansing to *remove* "sefifi", there was jubilation, partying and drinking. We are informed that they also sang praises to the person who prepared the bomb, calling him "an expert bomb maker". We have the name of the person who delivered the bomb, the name of the person who drove him to the border, and the names of the persons who were there to receive the "the good news". We also have the name of the "expert bomb maker".

We have been advised by our Attorneys not to disclose the names of the village where the bomb was packaged, the person who delivered it, the person who transported him or the "expert bomb maker".

We are happy that at least five (5) of the persons implicated are still alive, and will have an opportunity to respond to the allegations. This includes the person who is reported to have delivered the parcel.

AZAPO will assist the person to hand the Affidavit to the Authorities. We are choosing this route because some of the people implicated are associated with the Police. We will also request that the witness be protected as we fear for their own safety.

We have confidence in you that you will follow this matter up, and maybe unearth more than what we have now.

We also hope that this matter will be investigated thoroughly, and that it will help bring closure to the family.