

Analysing Anatomy of Violence After Apartheid

Alexandra Zavis writes from London

WHEN people are quick to celebrate the end of apartheid in South Africa, Rich Mkhondo, Reuters correspondent, tells the story of how his friend Johannes died.

Arriving home from work one day, Johannes was shot by a group of men from the nearby migrant labour hostel who had just wiped out his family. They bundled him into the trunk of his car, and then set it alight.

Mkhondo reached the house several hours later and as a journalist was allowed past the police gathered outside.

He found the family's dog lying dead in the yard, shot and stabbed. Inside the house Johannes' wife's body lay covered in blood. In the bedroom their 14-year-old daughter had been stabbed in the chest and shot in the eye. Her 10-year-old brother was inside a cupboard, hacked with a cane-cutting knife before his throat was cut. Finally Mkhondo found his friend's mother in the visitor's bedroom, behind a pile of clothes and blanket. She had been shot.

The assailants broke furniture and made off with clothes, jewelry and a television set. Neither Johannes nor the rest of his family belonged to any political organisation.

This kind of violence has become a daily occurrence in South African townships like Katilehong, where Mkhondo has spent his 37 years. It is

one of the biggest threats to the achievement of a peaceful settlement at the multi-party talks, which are the focal point of Mkhondo's first book, *Reporting South Africa*.

As a journalist he has travelled up and down the country and interviewed most of the leading figures involved in creating a new South Africa. He has produced a thoughtful and detailed account of the past four years, which fills in many of the gaps in local as well as international coverage.

Mkhondo dismisses simplistic explanations for the violence that is ravaging his community.

President F W de Klerk likes to talk of "black on black" violence, but Mkhondo has spoken to victims who say their attackers were brought to the area in vehicles driven by white men. Others report that while their attackers had covered their faces, some had white hands.

Chief Mongosuthu Buthelezi, head of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), declares his followers are the victims of "ethnic cleansing". But where the violence began, in Natal, Zulu fought Zulu.

The African National Congress (ANC) has spoken repeatedly of a "third force" orchestrating the violence. But there are so many different strands to the conflict that no one has been able to pin point any third, fourth or fifth

Drawing on nearly 10 years experience as a journalist Rich Mkhondo has published a book which sheds new light on evolution of South Africa's problems. He spoke to Gemini News Service about the complexity of the country's continuing violence, and the possibilities for peace.

Shedding light on a turbulent transition



Published by James Currey Ltd, 54b Thornhill Square, London N1 1BE price at £9.50.

forces, Mkhondo says.

There are plenty of police and army members who are unhappy with De Klerk's reforms. Informal surveys suggest 60 per cent of junior and 50 per cent of senior officers

in the Defence Force support the pro-apartheid Conservative Party.

And police action in the strife-ridden areas has been far from even-handed. Mkhondo has himself witnessed Inkatha

attacking communities while the police simply looked on, and the ANC is quick to point out that their followers make up the vast majority of arrests.

De Klerk, for his part, has failed to take decisive action to bring the security forces under control, despite mounting evidence of widespread corruption, covert funding of pro-apartheid organisations and death cells set up to eliminate political opponents.

The ANC accuses him of pursuing a double agenda of talking to them while allowing the violence to continue in a bid to weaken them. Whether or not this is the case, Mkhondo points out in his book that De Klerk is under enormous pressure not to antagonize the security establishment.

"There was the fear that if his vision of power sharing in South Africa failed, he might not only have to rely on them, but could also end up being ousted by them," Mkhondo writes.

Meanwhile the police complain of insufficient resources and a lack of cooperation from the community. Township residents, however, have not noticed this sort of problem in tracking down the black killers of white farmers, for example.

Mkhondo insists the causes of the strife are multi-faceted and complex. All sides admit that their followers are "not angels." But underlying it all

prosperity certain, urban dangers, would decline and the rest can be tackled.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

Large Screen Viewing

by Mujibul Haque

not make artistic and entertaining movies, and in this country there are no genuine movie goers. ought to think to ponder upon a new thought. Do we have a cinema hall that give us the expected atmosphere in and outside of the cinema halls?

These days the ticket counter at the movie halls do not in general allow advance booking over the phone — a practice in the past which allowed the "reserved" tickets to be collected by the caller or an unauthorised person. In fact, these days one cannot even book two days in advance as was once customary. Cine-goers would also point out that it is very difficult to even "see" the booking clerk! Nowadays, the glass that allowed a full view of both sides — those in the queue and the ticket sellers — has disappeared to be transformed into iron grille and hard board! There is a hole large enough for a burly person to thrust one's hand with the cash and withdraw with the ticket. To "see" one would have to crouch and peer; a procedure most find embarrassing. Others, of course, could not have cared if the ticket was being dispensed by a Martian or a Venusian: all they are interested in viewing are the tickets and the movie.

Again, the counter is opened perfunctorily just before show time to fulfil some sort of formality. Its plus point is that one may be lucky enough to get tickets at the normal rate. Some film fans, however, avoid this queue as well because of unpleasant scuffling incidents that often break out. In one case, there were a few moments of intense fistfights. The ardent fans were not scared off, but the faint-of-heart giggled on seeing in the "raw flesh" what they had been so used to enjoying only on the screen — large and mini. They ended up buying their tickets in the "black". Sometimes the stick-wielding khaki-clad guard at the gate also stands at the side of the counter, seeming to be a "threatening" figure more to the occasional viewer than those in the business of re-cycling tickets!

The ticket dilemma can be solved in a manner of speaking. Re-cycled tickets are ALWAYS available, including hours and hours before the movie, but at the "appropriate" price, which is not actually inappropriate considering the nominal price of the ordinary tickets and the market price of other recreational facilities and essentials! But the dilemma of providing an aesthetically uplifting environment is yet to be solved.

Previously, the audience was decorous and in the case of the third class — very discerning. With them quality matter a good movie with dialogue in English or in any other earthly language, causes them no displeasure. But a so-called art film in any language moves them to protest in various ways including being vociferous or failing to buy tickets, thus causing the film to be removed in a few days. Today there is little distinction: majority of the viewers is practically an unadulterated mass. And the vendors of chips, cold drinks

behave accordingly — as if they were in a football stadium! The inside of a cinema hall matches the outside. At one time the audience waited for their time at the toilet. These days they make their own arrangements in addition to those existing in the halls. Pathetically, this is true both inside and outside the hall.

Smaller and new movie halls are projected for the future. They are to be part of a complex: restaurant and a shopping arcade: movie seats for only 50 to 100. The size is to enable the complex-authorities to cater to the sophisticated and the family movie-go-

ers, including car owners. The lure is a large screen and a congenial atmosphere, booking over phone, the children can be watching a movie while the parents conduct a business conference meeting. The construction of such places in shopping arcades are being held up in this region by urban blights like hartals, bombs, flooded streets and hijackers.

At the moment, far from being on the wane such occurrences are flourishing to an extent that is deterring economic growth. However, prosperity is on the rise world-wide and it is a tide which cannot be restrained for long. And with

neighbours, would decline and the rest can be tackled.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all, when our movies have caught up with the outside world, so as to be indistinguishable as far as qualities like colour and acting, why can we view them in peace only in printed or other video versions?

Why not on the large screen as some movies can only be viewed, including the one mentioned.

But what of existing halls ... surely they can be revamped, at least in terms of cleanliness and renovation — restoring their former glory. No open drains, no pot holes, no puddles, no smeared walls.

Neighbourhoods and the viewers cannot be changed but they can be given a chance to grow along more favourable lines.

After all,