

On Revolutionary Style Conflict and Contemporary South Africa

The Healing of our Land

By Roland de Vries

WAR OR PEACE - THE FUMING FACE OF CONTEMPORARY SOUTH AFRICA

It seems as if all hell has broken loose in South Africa for almost three decades now. That noticeably happened since the African National Congress took power on the 27th of April 1994.

South Africa is in a state of war, although of the revolutionary kind.¹ Fact not fiction!

The disgraceful position contemporary South Africa finds itself in is reflected by the number of staggering deaths happening daily all over our country due to violent crime.² Together with the latter tragic state of affairs consider the astounding levels of corruption being revealed almost on an hourly basis in government circles. Many experts refer to this shameful situation South Africans are enmeshed in as ‘peoples war, unconventional war, or slow war’! Read all about it.³

Former President Thabo Mbeki made an explicit statement in the aftermath of the July-August 2021 insurrection in KwaZulu-Natal when his predecessor, former President Jacob Zuma, was incarcerated for grave political wrongdoings. From 08 July 2021 and for a period of approximately two (2) weeks, South Africa experienced a period of unrest, characterised by violence, looting, destruction of property, disruption of economic activity, physical injury and over 300 deaths. These events occurred primarily in the provinces of Gauteng and KwaZulu

¹ De Vries, Roland: *Mobile Warfare for Africa*. Helion Books, London, 2017, Chapter 1, page 34. Revolutionary warfare (also referred to as People’s War or Protracted War) is an attempt by a group or organisation to overpower a recognised government system and replace it with a government system of its own. In so doing, the revolutionary group will invariably try to reorder the political, social, and economic structure of the country to suit its own agenda. Terrorism, in its broadest sense, is the use of intentional violence and fear to achieve political or ideological aims.

² Bissinesstech Lifestyle Staff Writer, 17 February 2023: An average of 74 people is murdered every day in South Africa. The South African Police Service has published the latest crime stats for the third quarter of 2022/23, covering October to December 2022 – these statistics are under reported. According to the latest data, 7,555 murders were recorded over the period, averaging 82 murders every day – an alarming number by any measure. Taking a wider view of the whole of 2022 (which encompasses 4Q21/22 data through to 3Q22/23), 27,066 murders were recorded in the calendar year, averaging 74 people every day. Taking the quarterly date on a per 100,000 people measure, it’s clear that murder rates are rising. These reported deaths are warlike casualty figures.

³ Refer to the following knowledge resources listed in the Bibliography: De Ruyter, André: *Truth to Power*. Penguin Random House South Africa, 14 May 2023; Ensor, Linda: *Lawlessness is a Ticking Time Bomb*; Jeffery, Anthea, Dr: *People’s War: New Light on the Struggle for South Africa*, published by Jonathan Ball Publishers, South Africa, 2009; Pauw, Jacques: *The President’s Keepers*. Tafelberg, Cape, Town, South Africa, 2017; Smith, Mike: *Here is a Wakeup Call for Everyone in South Africa – On the Slow War*. Published on the Internet, South Africa, 13 August 2018.

Natal, but instances of unrest were reported also in Mpumalanga, the Eastern Cape and Limpopo. We should take note of Mbeki's following words in no uncertain way - all in all what played out in those eight days in July was a national tragedy of enormous proportion and a wakeup call to all of us!⁴

“... our country is harvesting the bitter fruits of a counterrevolutionary insurgency that has long been germinating in the bowels of what we commonly call ‘state capture.’ The hallmarks of ‘state capture’ – the deliberate and systematic denuding of state capacity that we have witnessed at SARS, SOEs, the weakening of all arms of law enforcement (including intelligence agencies and the NPA). The economic sabotage, wanton destruction of property and infrastructure we have witnessed cannot be accepted as incidental. We recall that the current situation was foreshadowed by open threats of civil war and unrest.” – Thabo Mbeki, 16 July 2021.

In his address to the nation on 5 August 2021 President Ramaphosa said: “Three weeks have passed since the country experienced an orchestrated campaign of public violence, destruction and sabotage. While calm has been restored to the affected areas and our law enforcement agencies are working hard to bring those responsible to justice, we have acknowledged that our security services were found wanting in several respects.”

And what may we ask, are the president and his keepers - here and abroad - doing about this?

Where does the buck stop, and where does one's moral obligation to a nation, constitutional responsibility and accountability begin?

The July 2021 civil unrest awakened the reality of the danger to communities and businesses during a large-scale civil uprising. The report of the expert panel into the July 2021 unrest has made it clear that the government and its statutory institution's responsible for safeguarding the South African public cannot be relied upon. The report also mentioned that many experts interviewed argued that it is not a question of if and whether more unrest or violence will occur, but when it will occur.⁵ In addition the minister in the presidency in charge of the State Security Agency (SSA), Mondli Gungubele, has warned that violence and lawlessness in the country threaten to unleash a devastation ‘from which it will be difficult to recover’ if nothing is done about it.⁶

It is heart rending to realise that the government was warned about the July 2021 riots months in advance. They did not listen. Daily Maverick spoke to several sources with ties to the State

⁴ Hunter, qaanitah; Wicks, jeff; Singh Kaveel: *Eight Days in July - Inside the Zuma Unrest that set South Africa Alight*. Tafelberg, 2021.

⁵ Africa, Sandy (Professor); Gumbi Mojanku (Advocate); Sokupa, Silumko: *Report of the Expert Panel into the July 2021 Civil Unrest*. The Presidency, Republic of South Africa, Expert Panel, 29 November 2021.

⁶ Ensor, Linda: *Lawlessness is a Ticking Time Bomb*. Link: Gungubele warns that lawlessness is a ticking time bomb (businesslive.co.za), 24 May 2022.

Security Agency, Police Crime Intelligence, the military and the Hawks. All spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of their positions. A terrifying scenario was predicted: A repeat insurrection, likely driven by the pro-Zuma RET faction and marked by guerrilla-style sabotage. The aim: to keep Jacob Zuma — and his allies implicated in the State Capture inquiry — out of jail.⁷

The mammoth inquiry into corruption during the presidency of Jacob Zuma revealed how almost every arm of the state was suffocated and left bankrupt by leaders of the African National Congress (ANC), which has governed the country since the end of white-minority rule in 1994. The analysis emphasised the political character of state capture, arguing that in South Africa a power elite violated the constitution and broke the law in the service of a political project, which they believed unachievable in the existing constitutional/legal framework.⁸

The president of South Africa and his government need to take note of the following swiftly:

“The third Marques of Santa Cruz de Marcenado (1684–1732) was probably the earliest author who dealt systematically in his writings with revolutionary type conflict. His *Reflexiones Militares* published between 1726 and 1730 discussed how to recognise the signs of an insurrection during its early development and then on how to prevent or counter it. Noticeably, Santa Cruz recognised that uprisings are usually founded on genuine grievances: ‘A state rarely rises up without the fault of its governors.’ Consequently, he advocated compassion towards the population and good governance, to seek the people's understanding and support.”⁹

The words of Santa Cruz are resounding in our beloved South Africa as we speak!

There can be no reservations about the fact that the ANC government is not up to good governance. This party will soon come to its demise, and it will be from its own making. Neither are organisations such as the Economic Freedom Party (EFF) and Black First Land First (BLF) good for our country. This we clearly observe from their vicious outcries, alarming hate speech and irresponsible utterance in parliament, at public gatherings and in the media repeatedly!

⁷ Swart, Heidi: *Riots South Africa*. Heidi Swart is a journalist who reports on surveillance and data privacy. This report was commissioned by the Media Policy and Democracy Project, an initiative of the University of Johannesburg's Department of Journalism, Film and TV and Unisa's Department of Communication Science (Heidi Swart@Heidi-Swart), July 2022. Dates of the insurrection: 09 Jul 2021 – 18 Jul 2021; caused by imprisonment of former President of South Africa Jacob Zuma, economic inequality, criminality, and unemployment; arrested: 5,500 people; 354 deaths occurred. The location happened mostly within the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. Fortunately the insurrection did not spill over to more provinces. This could most certainly happen the next time around and could become more intensified.

⁸ Zondo, Raymond (Chief Justice). *Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud*. Presidency of the Republic of South Africa. Cape Town, October 2024. This Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, Corruption and Fraud was chaired by Chief Justice Raymond Zondo in the wake of a damning account of allegations of widespread corruption provided by former Public Protector Adv Thuli Madonsela in her State of Capture report.

⁹ De Vries, Roland: *Mobile Warfare for Africa*. Helion Books, London, 2017, Chapter 10, page 182.

Before the 1994 elections, most of the people of South Africa observed in awe the proceedings of CODESA,¹⁰ with the hope of people working together in harmony in future, in a thriving democracy; the making of something great that Africa and the world could be proud of!

With the ink barely dry on the CODESA accords, the ANC government stands back and willy-nilly allows criminals to control our country and racist jackals to shower us with lies, insults, and threats of genocide. All of this is happening while our country gradually crumbles economically and unhindered slides into anarchy. Remember well Mr. President that where a sense of fairness and dialogue in good faith ends major conflict starts.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, criminals are thriving indifferently, simply because they have no moral values, whilst acting as if they are exempt of any legal accountability whatsoever. Moreover, they have little fear of law enforcing agencies taking forceful action, as many of these so called ‘crime fighters’ form part of an interwoven nation-wide-thieving-murdering scheme. The plot thickens! A five-year view of criminal data recorded paints a bleak picture, with the current murder numbers and murder rates showing an escalating level of violence.¹¹ Fortunately there are a few hard-working-trustworthy policemen left, doing their darnedest out there – let us seek them out and work side-by-side with them!

- In his book, ‘Truth to Power,’ which has become a best seller, André de Ruyter reported that: Aside from neglected equipment, aging power stations, and an eroded skills base, he discovered that Eskom was crippled by corruption on a staggering scale. Fake fuel oil deliveries at just one power station cost Eskom R100 million per month; kneepads retailing for R150 a pair were purchased for R80 000; billions of rands of equipment supposedly housed in the company’s storerooms were missing.¹² Every South African who cares about the country and its future and has lived the consequences of corrupt and incompetent governance, should salute de Ruyter for his courage, fearlessness and patriotism. He was not afraid to speak truth to power, as per the title of his illuminating book.
- Don Siphos describes the multifarious crime and corruption situation prevailing in South Africa in his riveting book, ‘Understanding Organised Crime And Corruption In South Africa,’ as follows: “The apparent inexplicable high levels of crime and corruption prevailing in South Africa today - after fifteen years of majority rule under a democratic constitution and parliamentary system - remains the most dangerous phenomenon of our time. Organised crime, systematic corruption and out-of-control street crime are seriously damaging the country’s prosperity and endangering its future development as a would-be modern democratic state. It is an exception to the long casualty list of failed African states. South Africa’s socio-economic conditions are far better than those of many developing countries

¹⁰ Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA). The apartheid system in South Africa was ended through a series of bilateral and multi-party negotiations between 1990 and 1993. The negotiations culminated in the passage of a new interim Constitution in 1993, a precursor to the Constitution of 1996; and in South Africa’s first non-racial elections in 1994, won fairly by the African National Congress (ANC) liberation movement.

¹¹ Bissinesstech Lifestyle Staff Writer, 17 February 2023:

¹² De Ruyter, André: *Truth to Power*. Penguin Random House South Africa, 14 May 2023.

with much lower levels of crime. Despite starting with a superior infrastructure with the biggest commercial, extractive and industrial assets in the whole continent, the governing African National Congress (ANC) is now stumbling over fractures within the party. Ousted President Thabo Mbeki has publicly condemned his party's moral failings in a public address to Jacob Zuma and his personality cult populism. There is a growing national clamour over lack of development delivery – with health, housing, employment and education falling behind at an accelerating rate from repeated promises of effective action.”¹³ Corruption can broadly be described as the ‘abuse of power entrusted to a public or corporate sector official for private gain’ or ‘misuse of public office for private gain.’ “Government and business tender collusion has reached new heights, prices are fixed, corruption is rife, contracts are manipulated to enrich the most powerful, and honest small businesses are forced into liquidation.¹⁴

- Of course, there are the many criminal mafias to consider, who are blatantly ransacking our country's coffers; we know about the coal and construction mafias and many others; another is the ominous Water Mafia.¹⁵ In this instance it is about wilfully sabotaging South Africa's water infrastructure and raking in millions through tender fraud. Hello cadre deployment, which is a Maoist trick of the revolutionary trade. This is how the devious ANC government and the criminals do it! Check out the wily ways of the jackal by them using selected cadres to infiltrate all levels of public and private enterprises and their linkages to organised crime and the immoral mafia groupings found all over South Africa – to maim, disrupt and to rob for money and might. They do so blatantly, whilst our government protects them. Their evil tentacles reach out, right up into the highest realms of government circles and into the boardrooms of international collaborators. It is therefore not strange that we need to come to grips with phrases such as ‘radical economic transformation (RET) and organisations such as economic freedom fighters (EFF)? See where their evil networks reach out to! “Know yourself and know your enemy, so as not to be overcome in battle” – Sun Tzu.¹⁶ Enough said!
- Socio-economic related factors such as unemployment, poverty, inequality, lack of skills, underdevelopment, inadequate public services, and rampant crime serve as triggers to fuel the anger, desperation and hatred of the masses. This only requires one unfortunate event for the maddening crowds to go on the rampage once again. Do not fail to recognise the all-powerful threat of xenophobia! This all happens whilst ordinary people suffer as they are

¹³ Sipho, Don: Understanding Organised Crime And Corruption In South Africa. Don Sipho, Copyright© 2009 Don Sipho, 2009.

¹⁴ Van Zyl, Albert: *Enablers for the Effective Combating of Corruption*. JB Marks Local Municipality Bosberaad, NWU Business School, 18 January 2022.

¹⁵ MyBroadband: <https://mybroadband.co.za> › News › Government Report, Staff Writer. *Water mafia sabotaging South Africa's infrastructure and raking in millions*. Published as follows: <https://mybroadband.co.za/news/government/493587-water-mafia-sabotaging-south-africas-infrastructure-and-raking-in-millions-report.html>, 28 May 2023.

¹⁶ Sun Tzu: *The Art of War*. Literature House, Taiwan, Taipei, 1964.

held ransom and in forgetfulness by meagre SASA grants.¹⁷ Find these desperate people in shanty towns surrounding thriving settlements all over South Africa, left in the lurch by an affluent ANC elite in government, as our people struggle to survive in squalor and poverty! It is interesting to realise when you read studies, such as ‘*Terrorism in Africa: New Trends and Frontiers*,’ that Africa is still viewed as the new frontier for terrorism in general, and Islamic terrorism in particular.¹⁸ As far as I am concerned South Africa is no exception to this viewpoint.

Let us do a reality check: It is obvious for all to see that the ANC, as a former liberation movement, does not have the inherent ability to break out of their revolutionary impropriety, leaving in their destructive wake a neglected nation!

We find South Africa at the crossroads – a juncture in time to seriously reconsider the country’s future ... Jeremiah 6:16 ... this is what the lord says; stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls!

South Africa dear land: Due to a failed state,¹⁹ we can no longer rely on the traditional power bases (political, economic, social, safety, technological, spiritual, and judicial) to keep ordinary people safe and to care for their well-being and the prosperity of South Africa ... Ordinary peace-loving-people will now have to rely on themselves ... The only power base we now have lies in the commitment of ordinary people working together for the restoration of our wonderful country, bringing to the fore their caring, knowledge, skills, and ardour ... self-preservation now lies in the knowledge that we are doing all under the guidance of our Heavenly Father ... and for the love and respect we have for our people living in this country!

Where will this all end if our people fail to make a stand?

Who are the enemies of South Africa and our people then?

This question is to be answered in the most unassuming way possible!

Any individual, organised crime syndicate either nationally or internationally, political party or body inside South Africa, country from elsewhere, or international political organisation, who do not have the best interest of our country and our people at heart are our enemies!

¹⁷ The Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD Grant) is administered in terms of app-section 32 of the Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act No. 13 of 2004) and is implemented with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance. The Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD Grant) is meant for South African Citizens, Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Special Permit Holders who are between the ages of 18 and 60 years, who have insufficient means, who do not receive social grants on behalf of herself/ himself or who are not contributing to or eligible for UIF payment and have no financial support from any other source.

¹⁸ Haokip, Paokholal; Segell, Glen; Kostelyanets Sergey; and Solomon Hussein: *Terrorism in Africa - New Trends and Frontiers*. Africa Review. Online Publication Date: 22 August 2022.

¹⁹ A state whose political or economic system has become so weak that the government is no longer in control.

The ANC government as such, in its present form, poses an existential threat to all the law-abiding-peace-loving people of South Africa – an existential threat is a threat to a people’s existence or survival and in essence mocks the constitution of our country.

Africa is currently a node of conflict and will remain so for years to come. South Africa is no different. It is surely not the intent to be an alarmist or pessimist. It is just crucial to deal soberly with reality. This admission is the first step in giving due attention to all aspects of preparing populations in Africa for war. In the words of Michael Elliot-Bateman:²⁰

“As in the past, success or failure in war in the present or future is the direct responsibility of our people, who elect our politicians, who ‘elect’ our service commanders, who create, connive at or accept the system of military organisation, promotion, thought, philosophy, concept, doctrine, priorities, training, administration, and weapon development. If we arrive, as our forefathers did, at the scene of battle inadequately equipped, incorrectly trained, and mentally unprepared, then this failure will be a criminal one because there has been ample warning.”

Preparedness for war demands the physical, psychological and spiritual preparation of any country’s populace whose existence are threatened in any way; to be endowed with the ability to stand unwaveringly against any aggressive threat to peace, life and limb.

War, being an intentional violent political intervention by states or non-state actors, is organised and often prolonged. It is generally characterised by extreme violence, social disruption and economic destruction.

Peace, the alternative to war, is the state of harmony prevailing during the absence of war, armed crisis or hostility. Therefore, the purpose of war is upheld as the creation of a better form of peace.

It is important to realise that any form of war, even civil war or anarchy, is not a mere act of policy, but a true political instrument.²¹ It is nothing but the continuation of political activity by other means. Thus, when a people’s quest for freedom is threatened, the certainty of war escalates. However, it should be considered thoughtfully that war is brutal and should be resorted to cautiously. By the same token, peace is fragile and should be guarded zealously.²²

²⁰ Elliot-Bateman, Michael: *Defeat in the East*. London Oxford University Press, 1967, pp. xiii-xiv.

²¹ A civil war or intrastate war is a war between organised groups within the same state. The aim of one side may be to take control of the country or a region, to achieve independence for a region, or to change government policies - A war in which parties within the same culture, society, or nationality fight against each other for the control of political power. Anarchy is a society being freely constituted without an established order or a legitimate and credible governing body. It may also refer to a society or group of people that entirely rejects a set hierarchy - a state of lawlessness and political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority and national pride

²² De Vries, Roland: *Mobile Warfare for Africa*. Helion Books, London, 2017, Chapter 1, page 1.

The question must now be raised: How can ordinary law-abiding-peace-loving citizens contribute fervently to the healing of our land, the safety and prosperity of our people and the protection of our constitution?

Our quest then is to ensure the creation of a safe, peaceful, prosperous, and political-economic-social stable South Africa, wherein emboldened communities participate fervently and enthusiastically in securing their own livelihoods and the happiness of their families.

THE PRECARIOUS SITUATION SOUTH AFRICA FINDS ITSELF IN

The very fabric of South African society is in great danger as this is written. Many people still cannot accept that if the worst happens there could be an unravelling of civil society to an extent far beyond anything that our communities, the very lifeblood of our continued existence and progress, have ever experienced.

It might never happen, of course, but there is too much at stake simply to fall back on the old South African belief that ‘alles sal regkom’ All the indications are that all will *not* come right if we just let things slide for a while. We are reaching a T-junction in our history, and it is up to us – the people, no matter which level of society we come from – to choose the right road, to travel in hope and Faith, but simultaneously to prepare ourselves for the worst.

There is an old saying that fortune favours the brave; and the time has come for us to be brave and make sure our feet are on that road. If worst comes to worst, there will not be a second chance.

The current reality pertaining to the precarious situation South Africa finds itself in are summarised below.

- Ill-fated governance by the ANC for almost three decades and the outcomes of its national policy have caused an economic crisis in South Africa, the collapse of investment, poor economic growth, and the further deterioration in living standards. These mirror the chaotic state of governance and mismanagement in public administration and poor service delivery by the many district and local municipalities under ANC control. It seems that the ANC government does not have the ability – or perhaps the will - to escape from its self-inflicted wounds of corruption and mismanagement.
- South Africa is being held captive by the state’s unrealistic laws and restrictions, which have engendered frustration, alienation, and anxiety among people of all classes in our society and have hamstrung economic growth with little prospect of an improvement in the foreseeable future.
- At the same time its austerity policy has resulted in painful budget cuts in the vitally important building-blocks we need for our present and future safety and progress, such as policing and education – while at the same time pumping billions into South African Airways, which on the priority list ranks as little more than an unnecessary vanity project

whose main aim is that South Africa retain its own national airline, which is hardly a necessity. One could also mention another vanity project, providing troops for hopeless peace-keeping interventions in faraway countries like the Congo. It seems to have been forgotten that a soldier's primary duty is protecting the national sovereignty, or the direct interests of that sovereignty. One might ask what our soldiers were doing in the Central African Republic, fighting off a horde of rampaging terrorists without even having the armoured vehicles they needed so desperately.

- The ANC government has given up on job creation – which is not the same thing as setting up temporary public works programmes - and have run out of ideas. South Africa has a 34.4% unemployment rate (second quarter of 2021), or 44.4% when discouraged work seekers are included. As such 7.8 million South Africans are unable to support themselves or improve their lives. But the government prefers to ignore the bottom line in this respect – that it is not the state's job to create real jobs, but to create the conditions in which jobs create themselves.
- Serious concern grips vulnerable communities in South Africa – from struggling middle communities down to the very poor and most vulnerable - about the escalating crime situation and political atrocities, which plague the nation! South Africa is currently regarded as one of the countries suffering the highest violent crime rates in the world, with murder at the top of the list and followed by brutal and frequently homicidal farm attacks, home invasions, illegal land occupations, illegal road closures and torching of cargo trucks, housebreaking, cable theft, drug trafficking, vehicle hijackings and stock theft. All of our provinces have become targets, the only difference being the number of such assaults in the various regions. In short, we have become the happy hunting-grounds of predators.
- Our economy, including the financial sector, and our food, legal, and security systems are all under great pressure. Illegal protests, illegal road closures, political unrest, and violent crime, poverty and unemployment are on the rise. This is exacerbated by civil disobedience, generally in densely populated areas. It needs to be envisaged what will happen if the social grants can no longer be paid by the ANC government, or when the contentious bills on land expropriation (the Section 25 amended) without compensation and the restriction on the possession of self-defence arms by civilian owners are passed. The likely implication is that South Africa is hovering on the brink of a prolonged criminal surge by gangs and certain political organisations, which could cause widespread further outbreaks of rebellion and anarchy like the KZN insurrection in July-August 2021 and the present taxi war.
- The ANC government and its security apparatus clearly do not possess the will or capability to protect its citizens adequately – and it follows that the less effective the state and private security organisations are in maintaining law and order, the greater the pressure will be on the broader community to protect itself from crime and terrorism.

On a positive note, South Africa has abundant fertile land and natural resources to ensure economic growth, development, and stability. Our people need to be supported and allowed to toil their soil!

It is relevant to look at the miracles which happened on the ground in KZN during the recent insurrection in July-August 2021. Ordinary peace-loving people from all stations in life worked and are still working together to protect themselves and support each other – law-abiding people of all colours and creeds who had and have taken control of their own safety and destiny. It cannot be doubted that our only hope at this moment in time lies in self-protection, self-governance and securing own livelihoods, and to keep working together from the ground upwards to heal our land. Finding a fair and adequate political solution in which the government serves the citizenry, instead of the top-down current reality, is naturally the only accepted end-goal – but that is a medium- to long-term process which cannot proceed till the wounds of the present have been at least partly healed.

The underlying threat against South Africa – one which has become almost completely obscured by the current political in-fighting - is the looming possibility of an overthrow of law and order by criminals, which would include not just ordinary looting but also incitement to commit more deeds of wrong-doing and outright acts of terror. There are more than enough hands to do this ghastly work - not only ordinary lawbreakers motivated solely by greed, but also organised criminals and/or certain political groups, and individual destabilisers who are diligently pursuing their own extra-legal agendas.

It needs hardly be said that in such situations the law-abiding citizens are handicapped by the very need to act within the confines of the law, whereas criminals do not play by the rules; in their twisted world might is right, and the weak go to the wall. They will use and abuse anything to advance their aims; they do not care about the principles or authority of the law, even if that means shedding innocent blood.

Yet it cannot be otherwise. Simply breaking the law in order to rein in the actual lawbreakers is the antithesis of true democracy; as a famed philosopher once pointed out, when one fights monsters, one must take care not to become a monster oneself.

The core of the problem is often rooted in inadequate political and social conditions and poor municipal service delivery by the state. To make it worse, unacceptable lawlessness is encouraged by the hate speech of certain left-wing as well as right-wing activists. All of this is symptomatic in a country in which the state and its police do not provide adequate protection for peace-loving people.

Communities must therefore organise and empower themselves to take lawful measures against crime and other acts of terror, for as long as it takes, until the government decides or is compelled to govern honourably and provide its people with the adequate protection that will provide them with the means and opportunities to uplift themselves.²³

²³ De Vries, Roland: *Veiligheid vir Gemeenskappe (Community Safety)*. Naledi. Cape Town, 2020. This refers to the concepts and principles contained in this book on community safety.

The threat can be described as any real or potential condition or situation that could result in the serious injury or death of people, or damage to or loss of equipment, property and facilities provided to improve their lot. This specifically refers to any form of human misconduct and acts of terror (for example the high incidence of farm murders and atrocities against families), which is currently in full swing in South Africa. This is not to mention other threats, not only natural ones like droughts but man-made disasters like setting veld fires and torching infrastructure.

It is also a fact that political and economic turmoil, and the consequent undermining of law and order can lead to escalating political and criminal conflict and even anarchy, if not managed or contained by the state. It can even degenerate into full-scale civil war with all the dreadful consequences we have seen among our neighbours and near-neighbours on this continent.

All of this leads to one inevitable conclusion: The only way out is for endangered communities to take control of their situation and look after their own safety and well-being to the maximum extent allowed. And the only way to do that is by way of considerable planning so that deliberate action can be taken if necessary. Merely reacting to an emerging situation means only one thing: The community has already lost control of the situation before it has lifted a finger in its own defence. Classically, this is how tragedies happen, when communities take the law into their own hands in reaction.

The only way to prevent that is to be prepared ahead of time, so that any action taken remains within the bounds of the common law – even when there is no-one official to enforce it. It would not be easy, but vigilante ‘justice. is no justice at all. And that requires three things: Firstly, a well-thought-out action plan, secondly, a structure that provides the necessary control and direction, and thirdly the will to implement such preparations.

ON REVOLUTIONARY WARFARE AND THE PLIGHT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Now to come to grasp with the angry face of revolutionary warfare the African way we have talked about this far ... and to understand the plight of South Africa.

A handful of South Africans soldiers had the experience of this kind of warfare and to see what Angola looked like in the seventies and eighties after years of civil war and cross border strife. To this day many of them remain haunted by memories of the wholesale destruction, immense human suffering, and complete loss of hope they witnessed.

Do we, the people, want that? Obviously, we would all say “no.” Yet we seem to be heading that way in every field of endeavour. Still, no sensible answers are emerging from the Union Buildings in spite of the warnings of scores of experts in half a dozen fields. In some people’s minds the only solution is revolution, the overthrow of the entire status quo, after which

something better will arise from the ashes. There is a phrase which aptly describes this sort of approach: 'wishful thinking.'

Revolution is not a bad thing per se. After all, society cannot stand still; there must be constant renewal: All fruitful evolution could therefore be described as being a revolution taking place in carefully handled slow-motion.

The trouble is that many armchair revolutionaries, including a powerful bloc within the ANC's command structure, do not see it that way. They have an idealised view of the 'struggle', 'radical economic transformation', the militarisation of their youth league and another few warped revolutionary ideas they hang on to dearly. But because of this they need to be briefed on a couple of necessary facts:

- Firstly: Unless very carefully handled, a more or less peaceful revolution can very suddenly become very violent and destructive, especially if there are some genuine grievances rearing their heads - hunger, for one thing. Lack of services. Unemployment ... xenophobia ... all the usual rascals.
- Secondly: Protests might start more or less peacefully but can become ever more militant if the authorities' only response is to rely on suppression instead of seeking solutions.
- Thirdly: The wrong type of revolution is comparatively easy to get going. All that is really needed is a confluence of some or all of the various ingredients – and then one spark on the resulting powder-keg is enough. What is much more difficult is controlling it, never mind actually stopping it, because a revolution feeds on itself.
- Fourthly: Any curtailment of a people's personal freedom brings the threat of escalation that much closer. People like the Chinese, the Cubans, the North Koreans, whose citizens have never known anything but harsh dictatorships, probably would not even realise that such an encroachment was taking place. But a country whose people have experienced freedom is another matter altogether. Sooner or later, they will resist any attempt to take those liberties away. There is no going back for a nation once its people have breathed the pure oxygen of a true democracy.
- Fifthly: It should never be forgotten that warfare of any kind is a brutal, wasteful, and usually economically disastrous pastime which should be cautiously resorted to. It should also be remembered, however, that if he is pushed far enough, or concludes that he is in danger, a peaceable man will rise against his tormentors, whoever they might be.

So logically the approach of any 'governor' should be to strive for peace by preventing the torment - official or unofficial – unless or before the citizenry take matters into their own hands. It is not an easy task, for sure, because peace is a fragile thing that requires zealous cultivation and preservation by whatever means are necessary. At the same time, however, as President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Wars are, of course, as a rule to be avoided; but they are far better than certain kinds of peace."

For those vulnerable millions of South Africans who live through every day under the threat of violent crime, let us do a quick reality check.

During the Roman Empire's twilight, the author Publius Flavius Vegetius Renatus, while not a particularly astute historian or the possessor of any military experience, nevertheless coined a famous maxim about the relationship between war and peace: *Si vis pacem para bellum* – if you want peace, prepare for war.

Pacifists have ever since decried this as a handy excuse for warmongering, forgetting (wilfully or otherwise) that no formal preparation is necessary for war ... that even an empty fist, a broken brick or burning tyre can be used as a weapon of war. They forget (or do not want to acknowledge) that what is important is not Vegetius's actual words but the thought behind them: peace through strength!

Our country's politicians need to take note: If a situation becomes bad enough, a moment will come when a community decides that enough is enough, that to secure its peace and freedom it is necessary to prepare for the worst and act accordingly; that if people set their minds to it, they can devise the ways and means needed to protect themselves effectively, and also to do so in Faith.

The bottom line, then, is this: Let us be strong in Faith and do what is necessary to protect the lives and functioning of all peace-loving people. Let us be strong enough to face reality, unpleasant though that might be, given the escalation of violent crime and the high levels of political transgressions and indiscretions in our country!

Let us focus for a moment on the sheer brutality of the unacceptable number of farm attacks and other murders. Consider the military precision with which these acts of violence are carried out! It is akin to terrorism and the well-known methods of guerrilla warfare - a criminal is in fact a terrorist who has deliberately declared war on civil society, with no cause except his own welfare.

Take note of the ANC government's inexplicable silence about the slaughter of people of all races in our rural heartland. Enough water has passed under the bridge for us to realise that talking about it serves no purpose, that they do not even acknowledge there is such a phenomenon. The ANC views beseeking as a weakness. In short, the government does not care!

But denialism is not going to make the threat go away, any more than it did AIDS. It is here to stay, and likely to escalate. Think about the danger signs threatening South Africa. In his well-known treatise *The Art of Counter-Revolutionary Warfare*, John J. McCuen writes that the principles adopted by terrorists (including our own criminal terrorists) should be reversed and used to fight them. I believe that McCuen is right, although this is easier said than done, especially for civilised people.

This is how McCuen described the phases of revolutionary warfare in countries plagued by revolutionary onslaughts (including criminal onslaughts) in various countries in South America, Africa, and the Middle East:²⁴

- **Phase 1: Organisation, mobilisation, networks and subversion:** The revolutionaries (organised crime as well), usually start from nothing and then organise in secrecy against their adversaries. The wrongdoers then develop extensive criminal and terrorist networks of conspiracy until the inevitable cracks in the social and administrative fabric start to appear.
- **Phase 2: Terrorism and low-scale guerrilla type warfare:** Before long governing authorities are faced with unprecedented acts of terrorism and criminal action. Normally a reign of terror follows, whereby the revolutionaries make their mark and establish political-military baselines. This can be related to the high level of organised crime in South Africa and what is believed to be politically sponsored attacks on our farmers. Think about the leftist organisations threatening war against whites in our country and taking land by force.
- **Phase 3: Guerrilla Warfare:** The raging conflict usually swirls out of control as the ‘revolutionaries. (criminal gangs) shift to full-blown guerrilla warfare - by ambushing and attacking, extorting ‘taxes,’ policing, administering justice, recruiting and so forth, in their own persuasive ways. Meanwhile they increase their effort to mobilise the people in support of their political objectives. The revolutionaries continue to build on their strength and try to gain legitimacy and to win broad-based popular support. Refer in this instance to Zama-Zama’s²⁵ threatening the mining sector and the rampant levels of conductor theft pervading our country; all of the latter criminal gangs are usually armed to the teeth, operating with military proficiency.
- **Phase 4: Total anarchy is next.** This can result in civil war and anarchy, the final phase: Zero government control, major bouts of civil disobedience, rioting and mayhem with the intention of destruction and in wresting power by political-military means.

Benchmark the above pattern of revolutionary warfare to what is happening all over in South Africa today – the torching of vehicles along the N3 at Van Reenen Pass and the Mooi River Plaza as we speak. Take the tragedy of what has happened in Kwazulu-Natal recently (July-August 2021) as a point in time. Be true to your findings, and ask yourself: Where do we find our place on McCuen’s list? When you have done that, and there is only one way forward: the people of this country need to do everything possible to prevent full-fledged anarchy and even civil war.

²⁴ McCuen, John, J: *The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War*. Faber and Faber Ltd., London, 1969; The Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung. Lawrence and Wishart Ltd, London, 1954; Elliot-Bateman, Michael: *Defeat in the East*. London Oxford University Press, 1967.

²⁵ Zama Zama’s are criminals who work illegally in abandoned mineshafts in order to retrieve metals or minerals. A majority of them are migrants from neighboring countries, while others are South African miners who have lost their jobs during the economic decline.

Things are that bad and are not being exaggerated! As such professional soldiers are taught to analyse situations without fear or favour, and then accept the results without flinching. That is what the law-abiding and peace-loving people in South Africa will have to do as well. The state has failed them. They will have to protect themselves and their future, no matter what it takes.

To lay emphasis on the miracles which happened on the ground in KZN in 2021, when ordinary people stood their ground! Our hope lies in those of our people who are honourable, willing, caring, resolute, humble and Faithful! Gideon-bands all-over! “The inevitable is only what a fool hasn’t the wit to avoid” - Somerset Maugham.

CLOSURE – LET THE COLLECTIVE VOICE OF CIVIL SOCIETY BE HEARD

The collective voice of civil society in South Africa against tyranny needs to be heard loud and clear and to ward off anarchy. As responsible people we need to speak out and act! Appropriate and accountable community action is one of the ways of rescuing South Africa from its declining and deplorable state.

Every person in South Africa has the right to life as enshrined in South Africa’s Constitution!

The right to life is the most basic, the most fundamental, the most primordial and supreme right which human beings are entitled to have and without which the protection of all other human rights and their dignity become meaningless.

We have to actively choose life and law - evil thrives when good people do nothing. We need to change fear and division into Faith and make Faith infectious!

Let us reflect deeply as ordinary citizens about the current reality and future state of our country. As concerned citizens we speak to those individuals and organisations who truly care about South Africa and its astounding future prospects.

Let us do this, by working together fully to heal our land – we still have a chance to do so due to the remarkable people we find in our country that still cares!

National security and the defence of South Africa as a sovereign state is regarded as a duty of government. This is conceived as protection against external aggression and non-military dimensions such as security from terrorism, minimisation of crime, economic security, energy security, environmental security, food security, and cyber-security. Similarly, national security risks include threatening action by violent non-state actors, criminal cartels and worldwide role-players who do not bode well for South Africa. This tenure includes the effective management of natural disasters.

The above statement emphasises the importance of public safety, law and order, social justice, and socio-political stability, as amplified in the South African constitution. If these needs of a

country are not adequately fulfilled by appropriate statutory institutions, it implies that the next level of defence and justification resort to its citizenry!

As law-abiding-peace-loving citizens we need to listen to ourselves effectively and take the necessary bold steps to heal our land and establish political-social-economic cohesion in a lawful and credible manner! This implies taking active responsibility for the safeguarding of our people, the constitution, and the integrity of our country.

Ordinary law-abiding-peace-loving citizens now need to establish civil protection organisations soonest to take responsibility for functions such as safety, security, law enforcement and intelligence. This implies taking over provisionally the traditional role of the security organisations in our country who have neglected to do so, the latter due to the corrupt nature of their make-up and proven inability. This means fulfilling the role of defence, police and intelligence services in the interim, however, in continued support of those statutory institutions no matter how weak they may be. In the meantime, those statutory institutions need to be given some realistic time (not more than two years) to transform their organisations, which entails:

- Appointment of qualified and trusted leaders, who are loyal to South Africa and its future.
- Reframing the direction of each security related state organisation of what it currently is, what it must be and what it can achieve.
- Restructuring such organisations to bring it to a compelling level of performance, and to become relevant, affordable accountable, appropriate, and effective.
- Revitalization of these enterprises and the establishment of a new ethos and culture that will support our democratisation process and the overall prosperity of our country.
- Renewing individuals and organisations, enabling them to become integral parts of a connected and responsible national community.

The above-mentioned approach implies taking bold steps to transform state institutions swiftly. The process needs to be supported by our judicial system, who is still standing strong in South Africa and who can be trusted.

We therefore need to establish an integrated civil oriented protection, police and intelligence capability soonest, from the ground upwards, for the safeguarding of our people and our country. This needs to be done immediately, hopefully, for positive change to happen within statutory institutions.

A compelling plea for the revitalization and renewing of our state security systems are made by acknowledging that we are not soul-less machines, made up of discrete, replaceable parts, but as living organisations - complete with mind, body and spirit requiring comprehensive treatment, not organ-by-organ surgery, to ensure overall health.

We need decades of combined experience by leaders who care and can be trusted to lead our civil protection and constitutional restoration initiative and to help in changing major enterprises around.

Onwards, towards the proud, peaceful and caring face South Africa should be!

- South Africa should be characterised as a country where increasing improvement in governance, political stability and economic prosperity exists.
- Crime needs to be brought under control to an acceptable level by effective policing and justice of law and order.
- Government likewise must succeed in implementing effective community safety and economic growth programmes in urban as well rural environments, and actions should be characterised by spontaneous cooperation between statutory institutions and the community.
- Hope, confidence, pride and joy needs to be established among all population groupings in South Africa, ensuring harmonious relationships and assurance of their existence and economic growth for posterity.
- South Africa should be viewed by the international community as a prosperous and well-respected country, exceedingly suitable for investment.
- A united and democratic South Africa needs to take up its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

The healing of our land can only be achieved in close collaboration with our Heavenly Father, when our people are safe, relations are harmonised, and economic growth is obtained. This ideal includes securing the livelihood and safety of all law-abiding-peace-loving citizens and ensuring the delivery of essential services and commodities, and adequate food resources. Communities therefore need to stand together for what is right and be strong in Faith!

South Africa should be a haven for people, living together in peace and prosperity, in a country that ensures the survival and safety of all citizens, who wish to co-exist peacefully for present and future generations. This implies the empowerment of communities in South Africa for self-protection and to become economically self-reliant, as the state is presently neglecting to do so!

A tree falls with a great noise; a seed grows softly. Let us remain humble and find our strength in our people and in Faith!

Prayer for saving South Africa is a powerful weapon!

God save South Africa and our People!

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