

UCLA

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies

Title

Obituary: Stephen Biko

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4w7677dc>

Journal

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 8(1)

ISSN

0041-5715

Author

n/a, n/a

Publication Date

1977

DOI

10.5070/F781017405

Copyright Information

Copyright 1977 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Peer reviewed

OBITUARY

STEPHEN BIKO

Ufahamu announces with a deep sense of loss the murder of a freedom fighter, Stephen Biko. He was killed by the South African police while in their custody. He died on the 12th of September, 1977, and his death was reported the following day.

Those who knew him loved him and others who were associated with him were inspired and revitalized. Thirty years old when he died, he was the twentieth political activist to die while in police custody in 1977.

Stephen Biko was a leading theoretician of the *Black Consciousness Movement* of which he was a founding member. As the first president of the *South African Student Organisation*, he was constantly served with house arrest, and was finally banned in June 1969.

Surprisingly enough the western press has labelled Biko 'a moderate'. The racist South African police however considered him 'a terrorist' and a threat to their government. Biko although a soft-spoken and gentle person was not in our opinion a moderate. In response to being served with a banning order he said in March, 1973,

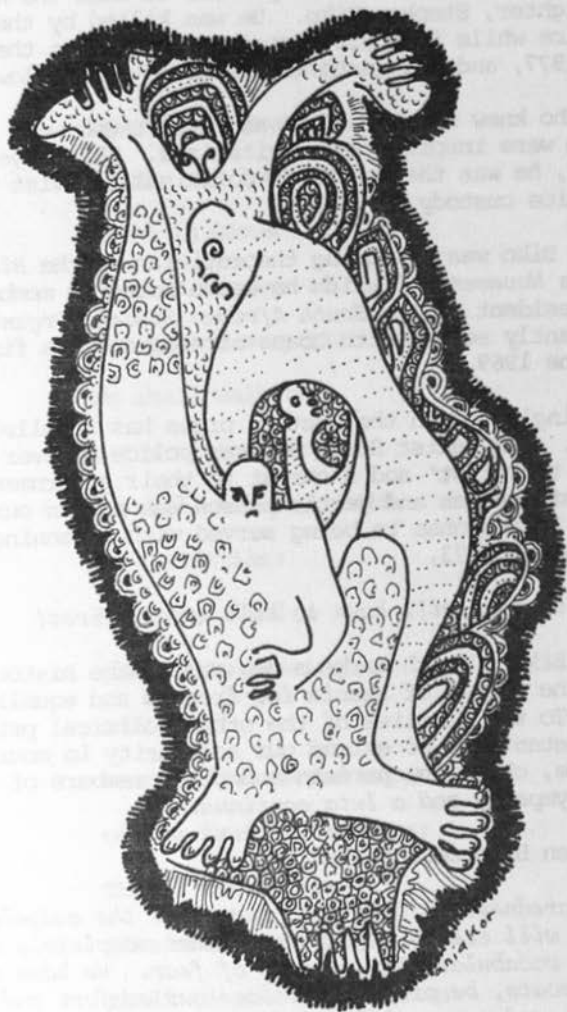
To stop us they will have to kill us all first!

Stephen Biko's death marks a new era in the historic struggle of the people of Azania for freedom and equality in their land. To the families of the other political prisoners murdered in detention, we extend our solidarity in mourning. To Biko's wife, children, parents and other members of the family, our deepest sympathy and *a luta continua*.

As Stephen Biko once stated,

Our preparedness to take upon ourselves the cudgels of the struggle will see us through. We must completely remove from our vocabulary the concept of fear. We have to take off our coats, be prepared to lose our comfort and security, our jobs, and our positions of prestige, our families ... A struggle without casualties is not worth its sale.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES



THE ORIGIN