

Remember Simbwaye

HONOUR should be given to the former Vice President of Swapo, Brendan Simbwaye, who disappeared 28 years ago.

It was late morning of March 1964 in Katima Mulilo when the news spread into the villages that Simbwaye was kidnapped at gunpoint from the local prison by the SA Police.

He appears to be forgotten on the political map. He fell victim to the police after addressing a rally at Mapulo, today known as Ngwezi. During the incident, 16 people were wounded.

His disappearance did not stop the fight for freedom and independence, but rather sharpened the struggle in that area. Thousands of Caprivians are still asking themselves what the police did with their brother.

Simbwaye's death is highly spoken of by many in the area as a great loss, not only to Namibians who knew him but many who had heard of him.

While in office the SA Police showed Caprivians that the best way to do away with an order fighting for independence was to arrest, torture, intimidate, and put in jail those who were active in the struggle.

Urging Mafwe and Masubia to unite as one in the struggle for unity and independence, was Simbwaye's burning goal. He showed dignity, modesty, calm and discipline among his followers.

Even though many describe him as a tribal leader who commanded a regional organisation known as CANU, they fail to see how difficult it was in those days for a Caprivian to reach Kavango or Ovambo.

Before his disappearance he told his followers time and again that people should not rest until unity, equality, peace and freedom between black and white become a reality.

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