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Reading Article G1

Article #4: YOUTH DAY – 16 June 1976

On the morning of 16 June 1976 students marched from different schools in Soweto to Orlando Stadium to protest against Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in their schools. At this stage, 50 police arrived to find 20 000 protestors singing the Sesotho version of the national anthem.

The protest was peaceful, some children held placards with slogans which showed that they were against the government's policy. After a while, the police shot a teargas canister into the crowd which caused them to move back but not break up. With no other

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Please ask them to send the complete version of this material before the lesson. promised that law and order would be kept at all costs. By the end of the third day of the uprising about 500 students had been killed, many more injured and hundreds detained without trial. The uprising started on 16 June had far-reaching consequences.

Firstly, it greatly influenced the way black South Africans thought and felt about their oppression. From 1976, the Apartheid state faced ever-increasing resistance to its pass laws, forced removals, education, and housing and homeland policies. This was a turning point.

A second effect was that students started leaving the country to join the ranks of the liberation movements in exile. There were negative economic consequences for South Africa. This country found itself increasingly isolated, deeper in debt and further from a solution to its problems. The significance of the day today is that, on 16 June we

remember the young people of our country and their contribution to the struggle for equality. There are still enormous problems to be faced in creating an education system which is equal, non-racial and free.

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