

Members to document story in print and video



Karimi Nduthu

BY NYAMBEGA GISESA

When agents of the Moi regime brutally assassinated Mwakenya national co-ordinator Karimi Nduthu on the night of March 23, 1996, the killing might have as well have crushed the spinal code of the clandestine movement which since then has never been the same again.

The life and times of Mr Nduthu is part of the works which members of the clandestine December Twelve Movement and its successor Mwakenya plan to document and digitise this year in partnership with the George Padmore Institute in London.

The Mwakenya adherents have decided to come out in public to tell their story.

They will also be releasing publications that detail efforts by underground movements to remove President Daniel arap Moi from power in the 1980s and 1990s.

The new publications are part of the Vita Books set up in London in 1986 by exiled Kenyans.

Vita Books, which moved from London to Nairobi in 2017, has set up the Ukombozi Library in Nairobi with an initial collection from the December Twelve Movement Library.

In an interview with Sunday Nation, Mr Shirazz Durrani, who is co-ordinating the efforts, says local universities, research centres and government institutions are yet to document the history of the underground movements due to “fears of the unknown.”

The 75-year-old former lecturer at the London Metropolitan University says that, together with former member of the underground movements, they are making available socialist and progressive material through Vita Books and Ukombozi Library.

This is in addition to the articles, books, presentations and talks that reflect the socialist ideology of Mwakenya.

Mr Durrani says that he was inspired to join the underground movement by, among others, Mau Mau movement leader Dedan Kimathi, independence freedom fighter Pio Gama Pinto and the revolutionary trade unionist Makhan Singh.

“I joined December Twelve Movement in the late 1970s. I was active in various aspects, political, organisational, and cultural as well as in its information work.

Later in London, I was one of the founder members of Umoja and when it joined Mwakenya, I remained active in various capacities, including organisational, ideological, information and publishing,” Mr Durrani says.

Mr Nduthu was brutally murdered by the infamous Jeshi La Mzee murder squad with one of the killers shouting “tumetoka kuua adui wa Moi (We have just killed Moi’s enemy)” to shocked neighbours.

Neighbours said the police, who immediately appeared at the scene after the murder, had only come to confirm the death.