

**PC 11 Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness
(PACSA) Collection 1979-1999
at the Alan Paton Centre & Struggle Archives, UKZN**

PACSA was originally established in January 1979 as an independent Christian organization committed to creating awareness in the local Christian community of the injustices of apartheid. It worked to promote human rights and justice. One of the first issues in which PACSA became involved was that of forced removals in Natal and the foundation of the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA). PACSA was also involved with the Detainees' Support Committee (DESCOM), the launch of the United Democratic Front (UDF), and helped support ex-Sarmcol workers who had been dismissed. In 1985 PACSA began to support victims of violence in the greater Pietermaritzburg area. This violence escalated into the "Seven Days War" of 25-31 March 1990. PACSA continued with this involvement up to 1999. Several other organizations were also involved with the crisis work, and this work was documented by the Centre for Adult Education, by John Aitchison and Vaughan John.

PACSA was founded by Peter Kerchhoff and his wife Joan and five others who were the original council members: Colin Gardner, James Massey, Bob Clarke, Chris Richmond and Cresswell Mkhize. Later they were joined by Francois Bill, John Aitchison, Graham Lindegger, and others. Monika Wittenberg ran the resource centre and Gay Spiller was the first secretary. Archbishop Denis Hurley gave much support and encouragement to the organization, as did Archbishop Desmond Tutu, as General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC).

The first donation of PACSA archives to the Alan Paton Centre (APC) was made during the apartheid era by Monika Wittenberg, to protect the files from possible confiscation by the Security Police, who raided PACSA offices on several occasions, and detained Peter Kerchhoff in solitary confinement in 1986. It consists of 11 boxes, containing press cuttings on the ANC, which was unbanned in 1990; detention and Treason Trial files; and DESCOM files, amongst others. PACSA maintained a press cutting service in line with one of its original aims: to be a source of important information for the general public. The numbering for this section is PC 11/1.

The second donation of 41 PACSA Crisis files was made by Joan Kerchhoff before she retired from PACSA in 2005. These files were originally housed in the PACSA Resource Centre. This section deals with crisis incidents arising from political violence in the PMB area. They document crisis incidents from 1985 to 1999. Most of these incidents occurred in 1988, 1989 and 1990, in the build-up to the "Seven Days War" of 25-31 March 1990. PACSA became one of the main sources of information about the crisis, and was contacted by both local and overseas journalists for statistics and information about violent incidents. The numbering for this section is PC 11/2.

The third donation of PACSA boxes was made by Daniela Gennrich, Director of PACSA, in 2012. This was done when PACSA moved on to dealing with new issues, adopting a new strategy, and changed its focus and its name to the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action.

The numbering for this section is PC 11/3 onwards. It contains PACSA origins and founding documents; information on Peter Kerchhoff's life and work; Annual Reports; Newsletters; AGMs; Council and Executive meetings; Factsheets; and information about much of PACSA's work from 1979 to 1999.

The total collection now comprises 75 boxes of documents and 5 boxes of photographs and slides.

BOX LIST FOR SECTION 1

PC 11/1/1-14 The first section consists of 11 boxes. These were donated by **Monika Wittenberg**, from the **PACSA Resource Centre**, and contain newspaper cuttings, pamphlets and articles.

PC 11/1/1	Box 1
PC 11/1/1/1-4	Newspaper clippings on the ANC by year: 1980-1991
PC 11/1/2	Box 2
PC 11/1/2/1-17	Newspaper clippings on the ANC by subject: 1985-1989
PC 11/1/3	Box 3
PC 11/1/3/1-20	Newspaper clippings & pamphlets on the ANC by subject: 1989-1991
PC 11/1/4	Box 4
PC 11/1/4/1-8	Newspaper clippings & papers: Homelands
PC 11/1/5	Box 5
PC 11/1/5/1-4	BTR Sarmcol Strike Scrapbooks
PC 11/1/6	Box 6
PC 11/1/6/1-4	Articles by and about H. Selby Msimang
PC 11/1/7	Box 7
PC 11/1/7/1-8	PACSA Detention and Trial files: 1963-1982
PC 11/1/8	Box 8
PC 11/1/8/1-12	Terrorism and Treason Trials: 1982-1983
PC 11/1/9	Box 9
PC 11/1/9/1-12	Terrorism and Treason Trials: 1983-1985
PC 11/1/10	Box 10
PC 11/1/10/1-6	Detainees' Support Committee (DESCOM): 1981-1987 Detainees' Aid Committee (DACOM): 1988-1989
Box 11/1/11	Box 11
PC 11/1/11/1-4	Violence in Natal & Signposts to Peace

BOX LIST FOR SECTION 2

PC 11/2 Crisis incidents arising from political violence in the Greater Pietermaritzburg Area

Box 1 - 27. PC 11/2/1 to PC 11/2/27

Crisis Documents: 1985 - 1999

For document numbering, see the detailed descriptive list.

BOX LIST FOR SECTION 3

PC 11/3-28: The origins and work of PACSA from 1979-1999

- PC 11/3 The origins of PACSA**
- PC 11/4 Peter Kerchhoff: Life and work**
- PC 11/5 Peter Kerchhoff: Eulogies and sympathy messages (d. 24-7-1999)**
- PC 11/6 PACSA Annual Reports: 1978-2011**
- PC 11/7 PACSA Newsletters: 1978-2010**
- PC 11/8 PACSA Annual General Meetings: 1980-1990**
- PC 11/9 PACSA Council Meetings: 1978-2010**
- PC 11/10 PACSA Executive & Council Meetings: 1987-2005**
- PC 11/11/1 PACSA Fact Sheets: 1980-2005**
Factsheet research on Group Areas Act & Forced Removals
- PC 11/11/2 Factsheet research on Pass Laws & Influx Control**
- PC 11/11/3 Factsheet research on Capital Punishment**
- PC 11/11/4 Factsheet research on Detention & Detainees in KZN: 1963-1993**
- PC 11/11/5 Factsheet research on Conscientious Objection**
- PC 11/11/6 Factsheet research on Militarisation**
- PC 11/12 Bannings:1976-1989 & Pacsa Newsletter & cuttings on banning of Beyers Naude**
- PC 11/13 UDF and Committee of Concern: 1983-1984**
- PC 11/14 PACSA Evaluation reports:1987-1998 & Strategic plans:1989-1999**
- PC 11/15 PACSA Events: Invitations, Agapes, Prayers, AGM Addresses, Panel Discussions**
- PC 11/16 Crisis Initiatives: Natal Midlands Crisis Committee:1987; PMB Churches Crisis Group:1989; PACSA Compassion and Development Sub-Committees:1991-1993; KZN Crisis Fund: 1992-1998**
- PC 11/17/1-3 Political Violence in KZN: 1987-1996**

- PC 11/18** **Assassination of Sikumbuzo Ngwenya/Mbatha: 8-2-1992**
PC 11/19/1-4 **Natal Churchleaders' Group: 1988-1996**
Pietermaritzburg Churchleaders' Group: 1996-1999
- PC 11/20** **Ecumenical Monitoring Programme in SA (EMPSA): 1992-94**
- PC 11/21** **Ecumenical Peacemakers' Programme (EPP): 1995-98**
- PC 11/22** **Goldstone Commission of Enquiry on Violence and Intimidation: 1992-94**
- PC 11/23** **PACSA Bursary Fund and various Post-Violence Initiatives: 1988 -1996**
PACSA Bursary Fund; Displacees & Homeless Committee; Natal Midlands Legal Assistance Trust; Church Liaison Reports; Human Rights Monitor Reports; Human Rights Comm: 1993-95; PACSA Peace Worker: 1993-95
- PC 11/24/1** **KZN Forum on Education for Democracy: 1993-1995 &**
KZN Electoral Observer Network (KNEON): 1993-1994
- PC 11/24/2** **PACSA Voter Education Projects: 1995 & 2000;**
KZNEEFD: 1995-99 & Election Monitoring: 1999
- PC 11/25** **House of Studies for Worker Ministries: 1993-97**
- PC 11/26** **Poverty and inequality in South Africa: 1993 - 1998**
- PC 11/27/1-2** **2nd Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in SA: Conference Papers: 1984**
- PC 11/28** **Publications by others from PACSA archives**
- PC 11/29** **Periodicals by others from PACSA archives:**
Human Rights Commission: Human Rights Update
Human Rights Commission: Area Repression Reports
Barometer on Negotiation
- PC 11/30** **PACSA Photograph Collection**

The archival documentation of the PACSA collection has been done by:

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The full descriptive list is over 300 pages long, and gives a detailed listing of the contents of the collection. This list can be consulted at the Alan Paton Centre or sent by e-mail to researchers.

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