



Rahima Moosa-

Unionist, Rahima Moosa and her twin sister, Fatima Seedat were born on 14 October 1922 in the Strand in the Western Cape. After completing High School at Trafalgar High in Cape Town, Rahima and her twin sister Fatima went to work in a food factory where Rahima worked in the office as a secretary. In 1943, she was approached by Mrs Ray Alexander, the General Secretary of the Food and Canning workers Union who recognised Rahima's dynamic personality, compassion towards others and her skill as a people's person, to stand for election as a shop steward. This was the start of Rahima's political activity when she was successfully elected as shop steward.

Rahima worked tirelessly to enlist workers from other food factories and fruit canning plants. She also took part in organising and attending union meetings and later became Branch Secretary of the Food and Canning Workers Union in the Cape.

Marriage -

In 1950, Rahima married Dr. Hassen Mohamed (Ike) Moosa, whom she met during a joint poster campaign with other organisations, including the Student's Socialist Party of which he was a member. In 1953, the couple moved to Johannesburg and joined the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) who worked together with the African National Congress (ANC), the Coloured People's Congress (CPC) and the Congress of Democrats (COD) which consisted of "white" comrades, including Braam Fishcher, Joe Slovo, Ruth First and Brian and Sonya Bunting. The ANC and TIC shared a joint office and worked closely with the Natal Indian Congress (NIC). As the struggle continued, all the congresses united with the ANC. In 1955 they were also involved with the Congress of the People (COP) and were instrumental in the drawing up of the Freedom Charter. At the same time Rahima was a member of the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) and it was here that she played an important role together with her comrades in collecting signatures for a petition against the law of "African" women having to carry "passes" and also to protest against the unjust treatment of women, the Bantu Education system and appalling living conditions.

Women's Marches-

The first march of about 2 000 women from all races to the Union Buildings took place on the 27th October 1955. Rahima was more than eight months pregnant when she led the march together with Helen Joseph, Lillian Ngoyi and Sophia Williams as the four representatives to hand over the petitions to the then Minister of Native Affairs. On arrival at the minister's office, he ran away but this did not discourage them in the least.

The women planned and carried out another march the following year on the 9th August 1956. The 1956 march was once again led by Rahima Moosa, Helen Joseph, Lillian Ngoyi and Sophie Williams. About 20 000 women from all races travelled from far and nearby train, bus, or on foot, to take part in the march. In the early 1960's, Rahima became a "listed person" which meant that she was under constant surveillance, and her movements restricted. She was refused a passport and the "special branch" police were stationed outside her house to monitor activities. Her husband was also a treason trialist and therefore also "listed". Both Rahima and her husband remained listed right up to the time

when the ANC was unbanned in 1990. In 1970 Rahima suffered a heart attack and her health slowly began to deteriorate.

As soon as the ANC was unbanned, Rahima encouraged her four children to become members of the ANC when a branch was launched in their area in Newclare so that they could become activists and carry on the struggle.

Death- Rahima passed away on 29th May 1993. Rahima's husband and four children are still active in the ANC. Sadly, like so many others, Rahima did not live to see the liberation of her beloved people and country she struggled for.