

FACTS ON South Africa



South Africa's apartheid regime is being shaken to its foundations by a massive revolt. The American media portrays this as race riots. These riots are in fact mass political protests against the oppressive system of apartheid. The forces fighting for Black rights are:
--18 million Blacks on the front line, with students and youth supply the militant leadership.
--2 million Coloureds (people of mixed racial ancestry) and Indians have followed the lead of their Black brothers and sisters. All non-white people stand to gain in ending the rule of the white-supremacist minority of 4 million. It should also be noted that white students have demonstrated in support of Black rights.

APARTHEID

The overwhelming majority of South Africans are fighting to destroy apartheid, whose purpose is to insure white supremacy in a land where whites are a minority.

What are the main features of apartheid?

1. Black culture is ruthlessly suppressed; Black artists and poets are arbitrarily thrown in jail; schools for Blacks are separate and unequal.
2. No Black political organizations are permitted unless they meet the approval of the white government. Representative organizations like the South African Student Organization (SASO) and the Black People's Convention (BPC) have been outlawed because they stood for Black rights rather than supporting apartheid. Six million Black workers are denied the right to form trade unions. Police have unlimited authority to terrorize Blacks.
3. Blacks must carry identification passes at all times simply to exist. If they fail to produce it for any white employer or police, they are arrested. Residency laws further restrict Blacks to tribal homelands. This 'bantustan' system calls for special permits to live in segregated townships for Blacks who work in urban centers. Sowetho has become the most famous of these as the center of the rebellion. In such towns, Blacks are not allowed to own their homes but must lease from the government. This is to prevent permanent Black residents near the cities.
4. Black labor is under a contractual system of government labor exchanges. Wages are maintained at poverty level.

Apartheid laws reserve the best jobs, housing and land for whites. The minimal concessions granted to Coloureds aim to win their loyalty to apartheid. But no Black or Coloured can say: I am free!

REPRESSION

The revolt of the Black consciousness movement has met with fierce repression. At least 400 Blacks and Coloureds have been gunned down in cold blood by police. Killed include a nine year old and teenage workers and students. Thousands have been thrown in prison without trials. Student leaders, teachers and principals and even a former beauty queen have been detained. SASO, BPC and the high school movement have been targeted by police. White students have been arrested for supporting the anti-apartheid revolt. Vigilante action has been encouraged by police. Finally, the government has tried granting concessions, but all to no avail.

The leaders of the rebellion say that reforms of apartheid are meaningless. What the Black majority is demanding are full Civil Rights, one person-one vote, and majority rule. We can therefore expect to see the struggle continue, with the racist white government escalating its terror.

U.S. SUPPORT OF APARTHEID

The U.S. government supports the racist apartheid regime, both directly and by massive investments of U.S. corporations in southern Africa.

---Historically the U.S. has used the apartheid regimes and Portuguese colonial possessions of Angola and Mozambique to bolster white minority rule. Now, under pressure from Black freedom fighters from Angola to Sowetho to Zimbabwe, the U.S. government publicly supports the concept of Black majority rule. However, while giving verbal backing to majority rule, U.S. talks with Vorster have focused on continuing aid through discreet channels such as U.S. corporations, Israel and NATO allies in order to maintain the racist apartheid regime and strenghten its bargaining power against the Black freedom fighters. The end result of Kissinger's peace missions, predictably, is more killing of Blacks, more repression, more apartheid.

---With interlocking directorships covering all southern Africa, U.S. corporations prop up the racist regimes, comply with apartheid practices and enrich themselves from the natural and human resources of the area. One of the myths of U.S. involvement in South Africa is that Blacks benefit from the enlightened racial outlook of U.S. corporations and the prosperity they bring. These arguments are false. General Motors maintains seperate facilities for its Black and white employees; Chrysler pays wages (\$81 a month) which are below the official poverty line. Polaroid makes the idendification passes Blacks must carry. Tsumeb mines extract 80% of the base minerals of Namibia. In all 360 U.S. corporations have 1.5 billion dollars invested in South Africa, and enjoy their highest returns of anywhere in the world. Blacks in South Africa continue to live in hunger and poverty.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

What can we do in the U.S. as Black rights supporters and friends of the struggle of South African Blacks for freedom? We have to understand that we are part of the struggle in southern Africa. U.S. foreign policy of investment in the area, and its military, economic and political support of apartheid is an extension of its domestic policy at home. Racist oppression of Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans and Native Americans is a daily aspect of American life. Since the ending of slavery, Jim Crow has continued to exist, in its legal or defacto forms.

Today Blacks in the U.S. like Blacks in South Africa are fighting for our basic civil rights to decide where we can live, go to school and what jobs we can get. And like in South Africa we have met with opposition from the government, such as the cointelpro program of the FBI to "disrupt, neutralize and destroy" the Black rights movement.

The National Student Coalition Against Racism believes the best way we can help advance Black rights in South Africa is by forcing the U.S. government to get out, lock, stock and barrel. Black leaders such as Jesse Jackson, Ron Dellums, Vernon Jordan and the NAACP have denounced U.S. complicity with the white supremacist regimes. NSCAR chapters will join these leaders and other forces in initiating actions. Campus teach-ins, pickets, rallies and marches could involve ever larger numbers of supporters of Black rights around immedeate clear demands:

U.S. OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA NOW!

BOYCOTT SOUTH AFRICA---U.S. CORPORATIONS GET OUT.

NO U.S. AID TO SOUTH AFRICA.

FREE ALL SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS!

OPPOSE RACIST APARTHEID---BLACK MAJORITY RULE NOW!

no to racism ... from boston to south africa!

NATIONAL STUDENT COALITION AGAINST RACISM

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NSCAR has mobilized national support for Black rights in Boston. We are calling for a similar campaign for Black rights in South Africa. The THIRD NATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM at Boston Univ. Nov 19,20,21 will include workshops and discussions on South Africa.

- ☐ I would like more information about the conference
- ☐ I want to help organize a SCAR chapter
- ☐ I want to join NSCAR, enclosed is ____ (\$1, or 50¢ for high schoolers.
- ☐ I would like more information on _____
- ☐ I want to support NSCAR work. Here is my contribution of: _____

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

School/Org. _____