

**If you could see
their national sport,
you might be less
keen to see their
sportsmen**

*Apartheid
and racism
in sports
are a
denial
of human
dignity*



Los Angeles will host the Olympic Games in 1984. As in Montreal 1976, many nations will refuse to participate if the U.S. receives racist teams from South Africa.

This demonstration, focusing on the South African rugby team, symbolizes opposition to racism in any form and specifically, opposition to apartheid in sports.

For further information, contact the Coalition Against the Apartheid Rugby Tour.

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A P A R T H E I D I N S P O R T S

In recent years, South Africa has been waging a slick, well-financed advertising campaign to show that it has altered its policy of apartheid. South Africa has tried to create a benign image so as to convince the rest of the world that racism is no longer tolerated in South African sport. Carefully selected photographs and texts give the false impression that black and white South Africans now compete happily and equally against each other in all sports. These ads state "if somebody tells you that progress isn't being made in South African sport you can tell them they're ignorant of the real facts." But, South Africa has purposely chosen to cover up other "real facts" --

1. Interracial sports competition is forbidden at the club or provincial level by the South African government; thus there is no possibility for judging the true ability of black and white athletes, or for developing racially mixed teams selected on merit.

2. "Non-white" or black athletes are restricted to inferior sports facilities while the government provides hefty subsidies for white sports. This insures that white dominance in sports will be perpetuated.

3. South African sport is ruled by all-white councils and federations. Leaders of non-racial sporting bodies, which advocate open competition without racial restriction, have been arrested, detained, banned, censored and otherwise harassed by the government. To prevent them from presenting their positions before international sporting bodies, they are not allowed to travel abroad.

Some would argue that South African sport has gradually changed, and that it should be allowed time to make further changes. But the South African government has stated consistently that it is not willing to proceed any further than the concept of 'multinationalism.' This concept, which mirrors the philosophy behind the Bantustan system, was cynically devised by the South African government to counter international criticism.

It means that each "population group" - Whites, Coloureds, Asians and Africans (who are further broken down into so-called 'tribes') must field separate teams. The government must grant special permission for one population group to play another, and this is usually reserved for international competition. Those who attend matches are racially segregated except under very special circumstances occurring at some international matches. South Africa's past record substantiates that even these minor changes were made because of international isolation.