

APARTHEID ON TRIAL IN SEATTLE



Since September, 1984, Seattleites have demonstrated their opposition to the racist system of apartheid in South Africa through weekly picketing at the home of the local representative of that government, South African Consul Joseph Swing. These weekly pickets have helped raise the issue of apartheid and especially the support provided for it by the U.S. government, U.S. businesses and public institutions in a way that has put apartheid at the top of the anti-racist and human rights agenda.

At the weekly pickets civil disobedience has been used to bring out the existence of the South African Consul and pressure for his removal. While almost all arrests have resulted in dismissal of charges, eight Seattle area doctors arrested in April have chosen to go through with a full jury trial. This trial will bring out the true character of apartheid and its impact on the lives of Black South Africans, as well as U.S. support for apartheid. We urge your support by attending the trial and the rally.

Trial: Begins Monday, August 5, 9:00 a.m.
Seattle Municipal Court, Room 112
(Public Safety Bldg., 3rd & James)

Rally: Monday, August 5, 12:00 noon
park at 3rd & Yesler
(just south of King County Courthouse)



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APARTHEID ON TRIAL

On August 5, the racist apartheid system of South Africa goes on trial in Seattle Municipal Court. The trial, by legal definition, is actually a trial of eight doctors arrested for criminal trespass at the home of Consul Joseph Swing, Seattle's only official representative of the white minority South African government. But the purpose of the trial, from the viewpoint of the defendants, the Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid, and other anti-apartheid activists is to expose the guilt of the South African government for its denial of basic democratic, economic, and human rights to the vast majority of the population of that country - Black South Africans. At the same time, the role of the U.S. government and corporations as accomplices to apartheid will be exposed.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

This trial is especially significant because it comes in the midst of a condition of escalated oppression against Blacks in South Africa. President P.W. Botha, on July 20, declared a state of emergency in 36 towns and cities to attempt to put down the growing resistance to apartheid. Under the state of emergency, the police and the army have almost absolute power. Since July 20, over 1,300 Blacks have been jailed and at least 20 have been murdered by police.

The state of emergency has failed to stop the liberation movement. The United Democratic Front, the main legal anti-apartheid group and the African Nation Congress, the liberation movement which was banned by the government in 1960 are leading the organized resistance of the Black community. So, making themselves ungovernable does not mean total chaos but it does mean that the people themselves have taken control of the Black townships and have set up their own political structures.

U.S. GOVERNMENT & CORPORATIONS - ACCOMPLICES TO APARTHEID

The trial will also serve to expose the support given to racist South Africa from the "constructive engagement" policy of the Reagan administration and from leading U.S. corporations. Rather than impose a complete boycott of apartheid, the U.S. government, corporations, and public institutions help keep apartheid afloat through investments in South African businesses, military assistance, and modern technological equipment. The trial will show how disinvestment and sanctions against South Africa can aid Blacks in their struggle to dismantle apartheid.

Since it is U.S. dollars and political support which props up the apartheid regime and gives it the capability to sustain mass repression, it is the responsibility of the American people to demand that our government end its support for apartheid and take a stand for human rights and freedom in South Africa.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Attend all or part of the three-day trial to show your support for liberation in South Africa.
2. Attend weekly pickets, every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. at the South African consulate.
3. Get your organization to sponsor an educational on South Africa.