



International Defense and Aid Fund for Southern Africa

POSTAL ADDRESS:
P. O. Box 17
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
TEL: (617) 491-8343

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When the police come the children get scattered in townships and they say shoot to kill because they say there is a state of emergency.

Bongare, age 11

There are hippos (armored vehicles) everywhere around Soweto. These men which are called boers run, shoot, beat and kill our students, they can even rape them.

Thulisile, age 13

Life nowadays is like a sick butterfly. To many of us it is not worth living when it is like this... the little kids don't understand why they have been put in jail.

Bothale, age 12

Dear Friend of IDAF,

You've heard the bad news from South Africa: the arrests, the torture, the police killings, and the censorship. Perhaps you have felt powerless to do anything to aid those who are brutally repressed for opposing apartheid.

You have helped. Even the smallest donation makes a critically important difference as to whether a lawyer can go to the side of a child detainee in prison. In some cases, that is all it takes to get the child out. In other cases, a lawyer can make the difference between yet more horrendous time in prison and release.

As a supporter of IDAF, you made it possible for us to defend a record number of political prisoners--40% of whom are children--in South Africa last year. Altogether, 17,646 political prisoners benefited from our legal defense in 1986.

This year, the numbers of detentions are increasing--but so are our efforts. In one four-month period in 1987, IDAF saw to it that lawyers defended 796 prisoners, of whom 695 were saved from any further imprisonment at all. Such a high rate of success under the notoriously unjust laws of South Africa dramatically underlines the importance of having independent legal counsel to stand by the prisoner--especially if that prisoner is a child.

These prisoners owe their release to the concern and

(over, please)

generosity of you and others like you.

We wish we could give you the names of some of the children and other prisoners we defend, as well as the details of their cases, so that you would know just what your donations have accomplished to defend prisoners of the apartheid regime.

But we can't. IDAF is banned in South Africa, and to reveal the names of prisoners and their lawyers would expose them to even further victimization. We believe that protecting the prisoners we defend, the families we support, and the lawyers and other brave people who help us carry out our work must be our highest priority. We know you agree.

Despite the killings, the disruption of families, and the horrors of torture and detention, South Africa's children are amazingly free of bitterness. They show a truly inspiring courage and humility. Here is what two ghetto children have said:

We must help each other as one nation. There must be no hating one another because god likes to see his children loving one another. If we want freedom we must respect ourself, we must not be divided ourself, we must stay together.

Nongezi, age 13

When I am old I would like to have a wife and two children a boy and a girl and a big house and two dogs and freedom.

Noagi, age 8

Children like these are South Africa's future.

Thank you for helping us to defend children like them. Your donations have been crucial, and we count on your continued support to help keep their dream of a free and democratic South Africa alive.

Yours sincerely,

