

# **KEEP THE PRESSURE ON!**

## ***Strengthen New York City Sanctions Now***

The New York City Council has just received a bill to strengthen the City's anti-apartheid laws. The legislation closes loopholes in existing law that have allowed some corporations doing business with the City to continue doing business in South Africa. By closing these loopholes, the bill signals loudly and clearly that New York will keep the pressure on until apartheid is irrevocably dismantled.

Some people may wonder if this is the right signal to send given recent events. Haven't apartheid's rulers given up? Isn't Nelson Mandela a free man? Shouldn't we reward the South African government for its steps toward negotiations with the Black majority?

Certainly, there is real reason to hope that the transition to a democratic South Africa has at last begun. But we must not substitute hope for action. At this moment, the basic pillars of apartheid—the Internal Security Act, the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act, the Labor Relations Amendment Act—and the disenfranchisement of the Black majority remain in place. The State of Emergency has only been partially lifted. State violence and right-wing reaction still assault the non-racial democratic forces organizing for a just and free society.

Agreeing to talk about fundamental change is a step forward, but it is not enough. To ensure that the South African government negotiates in good faith, we must demand tangible progress.

International pressure—particularly economic sanctions—has been a decisive factor in bringing the South African government to the table and it will remain a decisive influence on the timing and extent of transformation in that country. The African National Congress, the United Democratic Front, the Congress of South African Unions have all been adamant that sanctions be fully enforced until the repressive apparatus of apartheid is removed and conditions for free political activity prevail.

New York City can help to hasten that moment by passing the new sanctions law, which prohibits the City from doing business with companies operating in South Africa, both through direct ties and indirect ties, such as licensing and franchise agreements. Basically, the bill means that while apartheid is in force, American companies under contract with New York City cannot continue to supply South African commerce with the computers, cars, food products,

petroleum and a host of other goods and services that still get past current sanctions.

The new law would cover parent companies and subsidiaries, end special exemptions and provide stronger monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. The bill would discourage banks and lending institutions from bolstering the South African economy through new loans, extending credit and other financial services. It also sets standards for responsible disinvestment by recognizing the rights of South African unions to advance notice and negotiations over the terms of withdrawal when companies pull out of South Africa.

As New Yorkers prepare to celebrate the visit of Nelson Mandela, we should also prepare a message for those who so long imprisoned him and his people: promises are not enough. If sanctions are to end, if South Africa is to rejoin the world community, then all South Africans must be able to participate freely in determining their nation's future.

That day has not yet arrived. And we in New York, like the citizens of Sharpeville and Soweto, cannot stop to rest at the roadside when the journey to freedom is only halfway done.

### **Stanley Hill**

Executive Director, District Council 37  
Co-Chair, New York Labor Committee  
Against Apartheid

### **Act Now! Call or write to:**

1. Speaker of the City Council Peter Vallone  
(212) 566-5250 or (718) 274-4500
2. Governmental Operations Committee  
Chair Abraham Gerges  
(212) 566-0871 or (718) 875-5200
3. And your own City Council  
Representative.  
(212) 566-5068

Tell them you support swift passage of the new sanctions legislation.

**Vote for Sanctions! Vote for Democracy!**



Nelson Mandela has been released --  
But South Africa is not yet free.

## Stronger New York City Sanctions Now!

*"We have waited too long for our freedom, we can no longer wait. Now is the time to intensify the struggle on all fronts. To relax our efforts now would be a mistake which future generations to come will not be able to forgive."*

(Feb. 11, 1990)

*"The help that we require is firstly the intensification of sanctions."*

**Nelson Mandela** (Mar. 13, 1990)

We, the people of New York City, stand squarely against apartheid and for a democratic, non-racial South Africa based on the principle of one person, one vote. We call upon the City Council to immediately pass new sanctions legislation, initiated by Mayor Dinkins, which will close loopholes in the current law, strengthen enforcement and protect the labor rights of South African workers when companies disinvest.

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### Ad Hoc Coalition for Stronger NYC Sanctions

Return petitions

Religious Action Network, c/o ACOA, 198 Broadway, NYC 10038; Interfaith Ctr. on Corporate Responsibility, 475 Riverside Dr., NYC; 10115; DC 37, Political Action Dept., 125 Barclay St., NYC 10007

Information: American Committee on Africa (212) 962-1210; Immobilize Apartheid Coalition (212) 870-2295; or  
NY Labor Committee Against Apartheid (718) 768-1756



## WELCOME, NELSON MANDELA! YOU ARE AMONG FRIENDS!

The day that Nelson Mandela arrives in New York will be a time of glorious celebration. Mr. Mandela's visit brings home to us how far we have come in the worldwide struggle to end apartheid. It is a moment to savor and to inspire our own movements for a just society.

But the fact that Nelson Mandela is free to walk the streets of Soweto, and even New York, does not mean our work has ended or that victory is secure. All of the basic structures of apartheid are still in place. The chasm between present-day apartheid and a unified, democratic, non-racial South Africa is vast and perilous.

The anti-apartheid movement here and internationally must **keep the pressure on** the South African government to end all violence against the democratic forces, to guarantee conditions for free political activity, and to negotiate the total dismantling of the apartheid apparatus.

Politically, apartheid's rulers must repeal the registration of people by race, the segregation of living areas and housing by race, the forced removal of Blacks to artificial homelands, and the security laws which give unchecked police powers to the government. More fundamentally, Pretoria must renounce distinct group rights which give privilege and power exclusively to whites. They must accept majority rule and the key principle of **one person, one vote** on a common voters roll.

Apartheid must also be dismantled as an economic system. The vast economic disparity between rich and poor -- perhaps the greatest of any nation on earth -- must be rectified. The South African labor movement, headed by the union federation COSATU, has been a leading force in the democratic movement and it will

play a crucial role in the economic transformation of South Africa.

It is essential that the unions be granted full labor rights, free from both state and employer violence. The repressive 1988 Labor Relations Act must be repealed. The contract labor system, which forces half the Black workforce into migrant labor status, must be outlawed. Wage levels, which now place half of Black workers below subsistence, must be raised to guarantee a living wage. Basic rights to health care, pensions, disability pay, unemployment compensation, occupational safety, and job security are necessary foundations for real change.

The days of transition in South Africa will be difficult. New Yorkers can stay with the struggle by urging our City Council to pass new sanctions legislation, which will close the loopholes in existing City law. We need to make sure that it will cost U.S. companies more, not less, to do business with apartheid. We need to send Pretoria an old message from the Bronx: it ain't over till it's over.





## KEEP THE PRESSURE ON! STRENGTHEN NEW YORK CITY SANCTIONS NOW!

### What you can do:

The New York City Council has just received a bill to strengthen the City's sanctions laws. The legislation closes loopholes in existing law that have allowed some corporations doing business with the City to continue doing business in South Africa.

By closing loopholes, strengthening enforcement, and protecting the labor rights of South African workers when companies disinvest, the bill signals loudly and clearly to the South African government that New York City will keep the pressure on until apartheid is irrevocably dismantled.

### Call or write to:

1. Speaker of the City Council Peter Vallone.  
(212) 566-5250 or (718) 274-4500
2. Governmental Operations Committee Chair Abraham Gerges.  
(212) 566-0871 or (718) 875-5200
3. And your own City Council Representative.

**Tell them you support swift passage of new legislation.**

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### LCAA Sponsors

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Coordinators: Bill Henning and Kate Pfordresher

For more information, petitions and buttons:

New York Labor Committee Against Apartheid c/o CWA Local 1180, 6 Harrison St., NYC 10013, (718) 768-1756 or (212) 226-6565

(Labor donated)