



The American Committee on Africa

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Afrapix / Impact Visuals

South African police attack independence rally in Namibia.

April 10, 1989

Dear Friend of ACOA:

After 70 years of South African occupation, Namibia may soon get its freedom. In November there are supposed to be "free and fair elections" under United Nations supervision.

But already church leaders in Namibia have called us to say that South Africa seems to be intent on ensuring that the elections are neither free nor fair:

* A 3,000 member South African counterinsurgency force, known as Koevoet (crowbar), which is notorious for rape, murder and torture has been integrated into the police force which is supposed to maintain order during the elections.

* The police recently tried to have a bomb planted under the car of Hendrik Witbooi, a Vice President of SWAPO, the Namibian liberation movement.

* Police constables have been instructed to tell potential voters that if SWAPO wins the election "all cattle, shops and other possessions would have to be given to SWAPO."

* There are even reports that South Africa is preparing a contra force in case SWAPO wins at the polls.

South Africa obviously expects the Bush Administration to turn a blind eye to this election fraud and intimidation. It is counting on keeping the true situation in Namibia out of the media and away from U.S. public opinion.

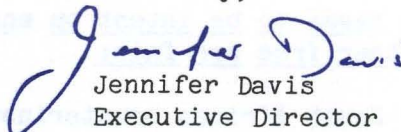
ACOA has had a close relationship with SWAPO and the Namibian people throughout our thirty five year history and we are not about to abandon them now.

We are helping to organize fact-finding delegations to Namibia throughout the spring and summer. George Houser, our Executive Director Emeritus, is preparing to serve as an observer at the request of the Namibian churches. We will soon be sharing his reports from Namibia with you.

We are also organizing a Namibia Election Monitoring Group, made up of distinguished Americans who will serve as impartial advocates for free and democratic elections. The group will carefully monitor reports from Namibian religious and labor leaders and from the observer teams inside the country. If they find that fair elections are in jeopardy its members will be able to generate an immediate response from Congress and the American people.

With your help, the November elections may yet inaugurate a genuinely democratic and representative government for an independent Namibia. For over 70 years the Namibian people have kept their dream of freedom alive. I hope you will contribute generously so that this dream has a chance to become a reality.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Davis
Executive Director

P.S. I want to especially thank all of you who responded to our thirty fifth anniversary appeal. Your donations have enabled us to begin this work to ensure free elections in Namibia.