

U.N. STATEMENT

ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID
UNIV. OF NORTH CAROLINA - CHAPEL HILL

Why are we here and why are we all struggling to destroy the racist system of apartheid which is the supreme edifice of the racism that exists here in the U.S. and abroad? The answer is simple. Only when apartheid is crushed and racist institutions and attitudes are overcome will true liberation come to the oppressed peoples of Southern Africa, the United States, and the world over. Our united participation in that struggle is of the utmost importance, for if we cannot overcome the racism that surrounds us we will fail dismally in our efforts to establish solidarity with the liberating forces against apartheid. I bring to you today that commitment from the students and youth of North Carolina who have joined in the anti-apartheid, anti-racist struggle. Our organization along with many others have sought to follow that commitment with a systematic program of anti-apartheid/anti-racist action aimed at forging practical ways of expressing our solidarity with those seeking true liberation from apartheid. Visible acts of civil disobedience and public demonstrations aimed at these racist entities has served to highlight their duplicitous nature and involve all members of our communities in acts of solidarity. Practical programs of pro-divestment, and medical and material aid to the liberation forces, combined with active efforts to confront and challenge the oppressive economic, social, and political conditions imposed on people of color in our own communities, have and must continue to be pursued as an effective tool in the struggle.

Not only is it imperative to conduct a systematic program of anti-apartheid/anti-racist action but of equal importance is a parallel program of education aimed at strengthening our communities knowledge of apartheid and the liberation struggle and of the racism that pervades our institutions and social existence. For our organization, this is an especially relevant aspect of the historical struggle to overcome solidly entrenched racist attitudes and institutions in the South. Through the utilization of open forums and discussions, the media, concrete analytical literature, and other means of furthering education we have, and will continue our attempts at creating a solid base from which an informed and effective struggle can be waged against apartheid and the racism that surrounds us. Our efforts however, will only be as effective as our commitment to breaking down our own barriers that stand in the way of a truly racist-free struggle. Unity will lead to victory!