

"Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope: Montgomery. . . Soweto. . . Providence"

**Interfaith Service
Anti-Apartheid/Anti-Racism Sabbath Weekend
Prayer Vigil and Fast**

June 2-4, 1989



Rev. Allan Boesak, moderator of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church of South Africa and a leader in the church-based nonviolent resistance to apartheid, will be visiting Providence, Rhode Island, on Sunday, June 4, together with Jim Wallis, of the Sojourners Community in Washington, D.C. Their trip to Providence is part of "From Pentecost to Soweto" (May 14 to June 17), a national religious campaign aimed at ending U.S. support of the apartheid regime in South Africa.

In Providence, a series of events on the theme "Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope: Montgomery. . . Soweto. . . Providence," will address the dual issues of apartheid in South Africa and racism in the U.S. The theme was chosen to reflect the interrelatedness of Montgomery (Rosa Parks and the bus boycott which launched Martin Luther King's career as a civil rights activist), Soweto (the black township in Johannesburg where police fired upon a demonstration of 20,000 students on June 16, 1976, setting off a whole series of strikes, marches, and boycotts against apartheid), and Providence (where, as in other American cities, racial discrimination against people of color has denied them both political and economic power).

The events will include:

1. **An Interfaith Service** Sunday evening, June 4th, at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, in Providence. Gospel music will begin at 6:30 p.m.; the service will begin at 7:00. Rev. Boesak and Jim Wallis will deliver the sermon. Music, faith testimonies by the various religious communities in Rhode Island (Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, Native American, Friends, Unitarian-Universalist), lighting of candles on behalf of the victims of apartheid and racism. Reception will follow the service.
2. **An Anti-Apartheid/Anti-Racism Sabbath Weekend**, Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4. Religious communities in the state are asked to focus their worship services that weekend on the issues of apartheid and racism.
3. **Prayer Vigil and Fast**, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 2-4, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., ending on Sunday with a procession to the Interfaith Service at the Cathedral. The Friday vigil will be held at the Federal Building in downtown Providence and the Saturday vigil on Main Street in Pawtucket--outside the offices of the three members of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation not currently committed to stronger U.S. sanctions against South Africa. The Sunday vigil will be held at Brown University, a renowned academic institution which continues to hold investments in companies doing business with South Africa. Assemble at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday at Waterman and Thayer streets in Providence for processional to the Cathedral.
4. **Soweto Days**, June 16 and 17, Washington, D.C., ending the national "From Pentecost to Soweto" campaign. Friday lobbying at U.S. Senate for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, evening ecumenical service. Saturday service and rally at the Washington Monument, followed by a march to the White House. Option of nonviolent civil disobedience. Busses available from Providence.

For more information or to volunteer, contact:

Rhode Island Divest
c/o The Urban League of Rhode Island
246 Prairie Avenue
Providence, RI 02905
351-5000 or 785-3930

Sponsors (list in formation): Amos House, Bell Street Chapel, Community Affairs Vicariate of the Diocese of Providence, Community Business Network, Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, John Hope Settlement House, Ministers Alliance of Rhode Island and Vicinity, North Star Express, RI Black Caucus of State Legislators, RI Divest, RI Conference of the United Church of Christ-Church in Society Committee, RI Mobilization for Survival, RI State Council of Churches, RI United Methodist Association, Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence, United Methodist Church-RISEM District, Urban League of Rhode Island.