

STOP THE APARTHEID RUGBY TOUR

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Chairperson: Judge William Booth, in cooperation with:

African National Congress of South Africa • Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania • South-west African People's Organization

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Tuesday, September 22, 4 people active in organizing for the Albany demonstration against the Springbok Rugby match were arrested in that city. Three of those arrests came in a 3:00 A.M. police raid where police burst into the apartment of Vera Michaelson with pistols drawn and shotguns pointed. Two of the four people, Mike Young and John Spearman, were charged with illegal possession of a weapon, and the other two, Vera Michaelson and Aaron Estis, were charged with possession of marijuana and firecrackers.

At their arraignment on Tuesday morning the judge refused to set bail, stating that he would hold the 4 activists for 72 hours. On Thursday bail was set at \$10,000 for Mike Young and Joh Spearman, while Vera Michaelson was released on her own recognizance.

Until all the facts are in, SART will not take a position on the alleged charges.

But we will state unequivocally that the holding of the 4 activists without bail for 72 hours was clearly aimed at sabotaging the struggle against the Springbok Rugby Tour. The refusal of the judge to grant them bail meant that they could not attend Tuesday's massive rally against the Springbok game, nor could they participate in further attempts this past week to build for opposition to Saturday's proposed Springbok game.

At a time when Mayor Corning of Albany, the Ronald Reagan administration and proponents of the Springbok Tour are crying so loudly about "free speech" and "1st amendment rights", we find it extremely hypocritical at the least that the 4 activists should be held in what amounts to preventive detention. The Springboks, the national team from the world's most racist country, are accorded all sorts of "rights" to come and spread the poison of apartheid, while those who are demonstrating against them are denied even the most basic rights.

AMERICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EQUALITY IN SPORT AND SOCIETY (ACCESS- COMPOSED OF: AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION, AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, AREAN, THE INSTITUTE FOR SPORTS AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS, CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED, COALITION OF CONCERNED BLACK AMERICANS, COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, COMMITTEE TO OPPOSE BANK LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA, EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN FOR SOUTH AFRICA, GRAY PANTHERS, METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION, NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BLACK CHURCHMEN, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, OPERATION PUSH, PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, SOUTH AFRICAN NON-RACIAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS MOVEMENT, SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, SPORTS FOR THE PEOPLE, TRANSAFRICA, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES, WORLD DIVISION, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONFERENCE TASK FORCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WOMEN'S DIVISION, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM, YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,) AFRO-AMERICAN WORKERS AND TENANT LEAGUE, ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS, COLUMBIA STUDENTS AGAINST MILITARISM, COALITION OF CONCERNED TRANSIT WORKERS, COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY, COUNCIL OF INTERRACIAL BOOKS FOR CHILDREN, DYKES AGAINST RACISM EVERYWHERE, GREAT NECK COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, HARLEM FIGHT BACK, JOHN BROWN ANTI-KLAN COMMITTEE, MONCADA LIBRARY, NATIONAL BLACK INDEPENDENT POLITICAL PARTY, NATIONAL BLACK UNITED FRONT, NEW ALLIANCE PARTY, PEOPLE'S ANTI-WARMOBILIZATION, REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST LEAGUE, REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH LEAGUE, SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, SOUTHERN AFRICA COMMITTEE, UNITED FEDERATION OF BLACK COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, UNITED TREMONT TRADES, U.S. PEACE COUNCIL, WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA, WEST PAC, WOMEN'S COMMITTEE AGAINST GENOCIDE, WORKERS WORLD PARTY, YOUTH AGAINST WAR & FASCISM, BROOKLYN ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP, COALITION OF CONCERNED BLACK WOMEN, CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS, GUARDIAN, 57th A.D. COMMUNITY ACTION ALLIANCE, HON. DAVID DINKINS, N.Y. CITY CLERK, HON. ROGER GREEN, N.Y. ASSEMBLYMAN, HUDSON-CENTRAL CLUB N.A.N.B.P.W., MATERIAL AID CAMPAIGN FOR ZANU-PF, MAY 19th COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION, N.Y. ANTI-IMPERIALIST ACTIVISTS NETWORK, N.Y. ANTI-KLAN NETWORK, N.A.A.C.P., PHELPS-STOKES FUND, PROF. JOHN HENRIK CLARKE, REPUBLIC OF NEW AFRIKA, SPORTS PROJECTS, INC., THE EAST/BLACK NEWS/UHURU SASA SHULE, UNITED NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION AND AFRICAN COMMUNITIES LEAGUE, SWAPO ACTION COMMITTEE, HON. HERMAN D. FARRELL, JR., N.Y. ASSEMBLYMAN