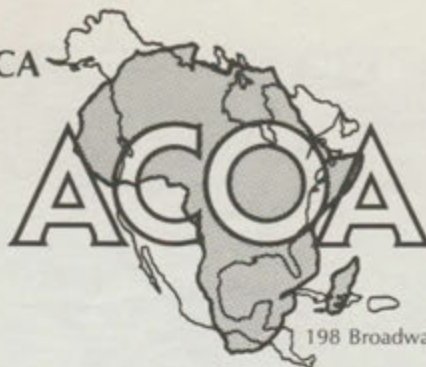


# ACTION ACOA NEWS



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## Breaking the Barrier of Silence

# Thousands Join Campaign to Unlock Apartheid's Jails

No one knows how many political prisoners apartheid's government holds in the jails of South Africa and Namibia. Some, like Nelson Mandela, are famous. Some have been convicted after spectacular trials. Many more are unknown and anonymous.

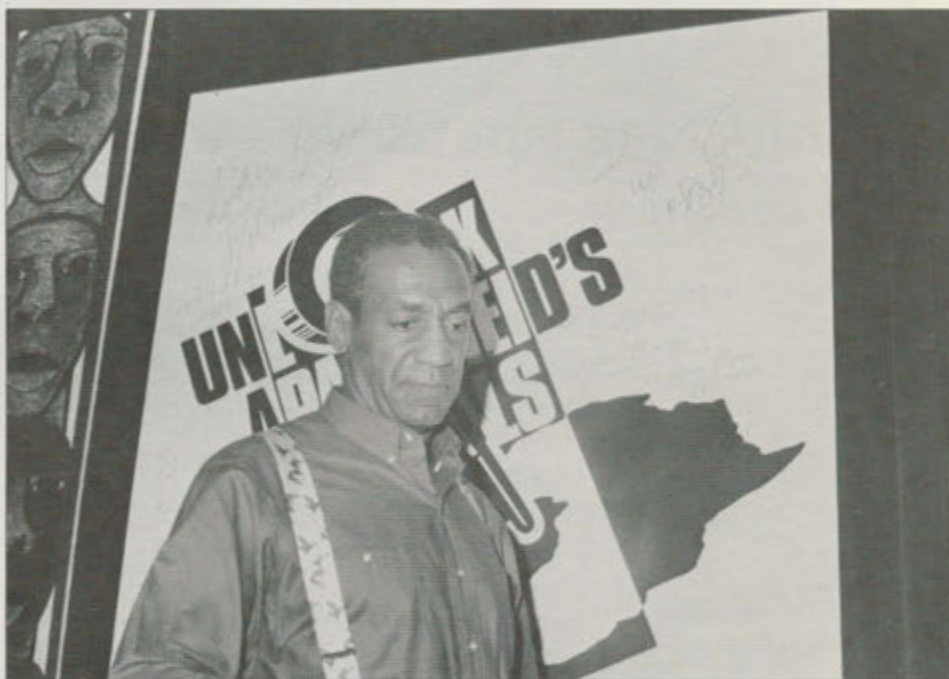
At least 30,000 men, women and children have disappeared into the jails for opposing apartheid since June 1986, when the frightened state sought to crush rising black opposition by imposing a State of Emergency. This gave the police unlimited powers to seize whomever they chose and to hold them indefinitely, without trial, without charge and without any rights of access to lawyers, family or friends.

To protest this massive new onslaught on the people struggling for democracy in South Africa and Namibia and to ensure that apartheid's opponents would not simply "disappear" without trace, ACOA's associate, The Africa Fund, launched a campaign in 1987 to Unlock Apartheid's Jails. The Campaign called upon people across the country to collect keys to symbolize their solidarity with South Africa's political prisoners and the demand that South Africa Unlock Apartheid's Jails. The Fund planned to collect these keys and hand them over to the South African authorities, as a powerful demonstration of American opposition to the continued jailing of apartheid opponents.

Bill Cosby, America's best loved family entertainer, joined the Campaign as its honorary chairman, and ACOA's longtime Projects Director, Dumisani Kumalo, rejoined the staff to take on the role of Campaign coordinator. Within weeks over 2,000 churches, synagogues and civil rights and community organizations had been invited to join the Campaign. The response was dramatic. Keys began to pour into the office. As the keys were gathered, at worship services, union meetings and many other community events, the wall of silence built around the prisoners by apartheid's press censorship began to crumble. Every day more and more concerned Americans again began asking the question, "What can we do?"

The Campaign was publicly announced at a press conference in New York on September

- Chicago Namibia Conference
- Sanctions Organizing
- A.F.R.I.C.A. Rap Hits Destabilization



George Cohen

## Bill Cosby at New York Press Conference Announcing Keys Campaign

"Think about your child going out in the United States of America and what do you have to worry about? Many things but certainly not the government picking that child up, carrying it away, torturing the child and then your going to the jail, going to the place and saying: 'My child is lost', and they say 'We don't have it.' We're talking about the law saying it's all right for this to be done to your child."

ber 28, when Campaign chairman Bill Cosby was joined by the mayors of eight major cities and Ambassador Joseph Garba of Nigeria, the chairman of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid.

Early in the day the mayors were briefed by the Rev. Tshenuwani Simon Farisani, a former detainee, who spoke graphically about the brutalities and the torture he had experienced and witnessed in South Africa. Dawn Ingle, Coordinator of the Free the Children Alliance in South Africa, brought to the event the most current information available.

Bill Cosby opened the press conference by painting a brief, moving picture of the horrors of arbitrary imprisonment threatening even children under South Africa's apartheid sys-

tem. Each mayor then presented "the key to the city" — to symbolize the commitment of their cities to freeing apartheid's prisoners. Meeting with the mayors at the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar stressed the importance of the Unlock Apartheid's Jails Campaign and thanked the mayors for their initiatives.

The press conference drew major media coverage, alerting many more Americans to the fate of South Africa's political prisoners and mobilizing thousands to action.

By October 13th the Campaign was able to dump over 30,000 keys at the doors of the South African Consulate. David Dinkins,

(over)





Mayor Marion Barry, Ambassador Joseph Garba and Bill Cosby



N.Y. Dumping the Keys: Rev. William Howard, Hon. David Dinkins, Hon. Andrew Stein



Tower Records, El Cajon, California

## ... Unlocking Apartheid's Jails (continued from page 1)

president of the Borough of Manhattan, Andrew Stein, president of the New York City Council and ACOA President Rev. William Howard were joined in the march to the Consulate by activists from as far afield as Pittsburgh, Houston, Seattle, and Denver — all of whom had come bringing thousands of keys.

By December many communities were organizing Unlock Apartheid's Jails events in their own cities. In Mobile, Alabama; Phoenix, Arizona; Des Moines, Iowa; Los Angeles and Honolulu, South Africa's political prisoners were no longer forgotten people, and the Campaign continues to spread. More than 80 Tower Record and Video stores nationwide also set up special displays to promote the Campaign.

On December 15th the Campaign went to Washington, where fifteen demonstrators carrying some 35,000 keys were arrested as they delivered these keys to the South African Embassy.

### 35,000 Keys, 20,000 Post Cards Delivered

ACOA and The Africa Fund worked with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the National Bar Association in planning the Washington event. The Lawyers Committee delivered more than 20,000 postcards demanding freedom for all detained children to the South African Embassy, and the National Bar Association presented petitions and letters from schoolchildren demanding freedom for all children in detention.

At a press conference on Capitol Hill just before the Embassy event, ACOA Executive Director Jennifer Davis and Lawyers Committee Southern Africa Project Director Gay McDougall described their campaigns. "From Mobile, Alabama to Seattle, Washington, Americans are taking up the cause of freedom in South Africa," said Jennifer Davis. "Each of those 35,000 keys represents an

American whose concern has turned to action, an American who is saying 'I will not forget those who have been jailed for the simple crime of being against apartheid'."

Senator Barbara Mikulski then joined Reps. Ron Dellums, William Gray and Walter Fauntroy and DC City Councilman John Ray in speaking out forcefully against the continuing imprisonment of detainees and political prisoners. As the press conference was coming to a close, ACOA's Jennifer Davis read a message of solidarity from South Africa's Rev. Allan Boesak, leader of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. After noting that the Unlock Apartheid's Jails Campaign in the U.S. had sparked groups inside South Africa to launch their own Unlock Apartheid's Jails Campaign, Boesak stressed the importance of the Campaign in the U.S.: "The Campaign makes a difference for the lives of individual detainees," he said. "It also encourages and inspires us."

Ron Dellums, December 15



Jennifer Davis, Gay McDougall and Ophnell Cumberbatch, at South African Embassy



Demonstrator is arrested December 15





# Chicago Namibia Conference

National and local activists, analysts and public officials gathered for three days in Chicago last July to discuss strategies and formulate plans for campaigns to improve Namibia organizing in the U.S. The conference, which was organized by ACOA in cooperation with the United Nations Council for Namibia and a local Chicago Planning Committee, focused on "Namibia and U.S. Policy" and took place at the Lutheran School of Theology on Chicago's South Side.

The Namibian liberation movement SWAPO sent a high level delegation headed by Secretary-General Andimba Toivo ja Toivo. Conference participants had an opportunity to hear firsthand about the struggle in Namibia and to engage in ongoing discussions about SWAPO's work. In addition, the General Secretary of the Metal and Allied Namibian Workers Union, Barnabus Tjizu, flew in from Namibia to talk about the emerging trade union movement in the occupied territory. Tjizu is also a leader of the National Union of Namibian Workers.

Other featured speakers at the conference included Senate Africa Subcommittee Chairman and presidential hopeful Paul Simon, Chicago Congressman Charlie Hayes and Detroit Representative John Conyers. The President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, Zambian Ambassador Peter Zuze addressed the opening session of the gathering. The United Nations Commissioner for Namibia Bernt Carlsson also attended the meeting and addressed the assembled activists.

"The United States government under this Administration has lingered too long with the forces of apartheid," said Senator Simon in his opening address. "Constructive engagement, linkage of Cuban troops in Angola to negotiations for Namibian independence, and support for the South African-backed UNITA forces are all part of a policy which works against the interests of the people in the region and U.S. interests."

SWAPO Secretary-General Toivo ja Toivo delivered a forceful address focusing on the effects of South Africa's occupation of Namibia and SWAPO's liberation struggle.

Informed by these opening statements, participants in the conference from labor, religious, student, community and human rights organizations then began discussing particular aspects of Namibia solidarity work in the U.S. Participants discussed U.S. Namibia policy with congressional aides and Washington lobbyists. Workshops also addressed press coverage, legal issues surrounding Namibian independence, church activism on the issue and strategies for material aid campaigns to support the Namibian people.



*Photos (clockwise from left): National Union of Namibian Workers leader Barnabus Tjizu addresses labor breakfast. United Nations Council for Namibia President, Ambassador Peter Zuze, speaks with keynote speaker Senator Paul Simon. SWAPO Secretary-General Andimba Toivo ja Toivo at the Chicago Namibia Conference. (Photos: Basil Clunie)*

## Special Labor Focus

With Namibian labor leader Barnabus Tjizu in attendance, a particular focus of the conference was on building support for Namibian workers. Among the participants in the conference were labor activists from local labor committees in San Francisco, Phoenix, Birmingham and Philadelphia, and several very productive sessions of the conference focused on educating the American labor movement on the situation in Namibia.

At the end of the conference, participants unanimously adopted a final program of action which reiterated participants' support for SWAPO and the struggle for national liberation and called for participants to develop direct union-to-union contact between trade unionists in the U.S. and in Namibia. Participants also called for expanded efforts in the religious community to support Namibian independence and for

Americans to press elected officials to develop and implement a U.S. policy that supports genuine independence in Namibia.

## Conference Sets May 4 As Day of Action

The conference ended with an informal activists' brainstorming session which focused on improving the effectiveness of national Namibia work. Suggestions for strengthening networking, improving information sharing and increasing local and national press coverage through professional media work were also discussed.

As a first step toward raising public awareness about the Namibian liberation struggle, participants agreed to develop local events on the tenth anniversary of the Kassinga massacre, May 4, 1988. ACOA has follow-up materials on the conference, which can be obtained from the office.





## Taxing Apartheid

# The Drive For Sanctions

While controversies around the Stock Market crash, continued U.S. support for the Nicaraguan contras, increased military presence in the Persian Gulf and the Iran-contra affair dominate the headlines, local and national activists have stepped up the drive for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

In Congress members faced a full southern Africa legislative docket this session. Conservative members launched an aggressive campaign that included attacks on the liberation movements, renewed calls for aid to the South African backed MNR in Mozambique and attempts to impose trade sanctions against Angola. But anti-apartheid forces were able to beat back these efforts in 1987 and on the positive side national anti-apartheid efforts were bolstered by a few favorable Congressional measures.

### ACOA Testifies

Anti-apartheid advocates realized a tremendous victory with the passage of a law that prevents U.S. corporations operating in South Africa from claiming a tax credit for taxes paid directly to the apartheid government. In the past tax law permitted U.S. corporations operating in South Africa to claim credit against their U.S. taxes for those paid to the South African government.

The new law is the result of legislation introduced by Rep. Charles Rangel which denies foreign tax credits for any tax paid or accrued to the South African government by U.S. corporations. Hearings on the legislation — **HR1005** — were held in July when ACOA Executive Director, Jennifer Davis, testified in favor of the legislation. "U.S. corporations paid well over half a billion dollars into Apartheid's treasury," said Davis, "and earned some half billion dollars in credits from the U.S. Treasury for making such payments." Copies of this testimony are

available upon request from ACOA.

The removal of this incentive has generated tremendous concern in South African business circles. The legislation effectively forces U.S. companies to pay taxes twice on all profits made in South Africa, and a number of U.S. corporations may be encouraged to totally withdraw. U.S. Treasury estimates show this measure will probably cost American companies about \$20 million in 1988 and \$23 million the next year.

### Sanctions Revisited

In keeping with one of the requirements of the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986, in October 1987 President Reagan issued a report to Congress on South Africa's progress since October 1986. The act required the President to recommend new sanctions against South Africa if clear progress had not been made toward dismantling apartheid.

The President, in his report, admitted a total lack of progress toward elimination of apartheid but refused to impose any additional sanctions against Pretoria, citing in defense of this failure the supposed ineffectiveness of sanctions. Reagan's position is at least a technical violation of the law.

Despite Reagan's recalcitrance, the call for comprehensive economic sanctions is being championed once again by California Democrats — Representative Ronald Dellums and Senator Alan Cranston. Their bill, **HR1580/S556**, would impose a trade embargo on South Africa and force the total withdrawal of U.S. corporations from that country. It would also end all US/South Africa intelligence sharing.

As of January 1988, the bill had only 79 co-sponsors in the House and two in the Senate. The small number of co-sponsors reflects an all-too-common attitude in Washington where many members feel, "We've already done sanctions." In an attempt to counter this lack of enthusiasm, ACOA, the Washington Office on Africa and other advocates of stronger sanctions are placing a heavy emphasis on mobilizing local activists to press members of Congress to support the legislation and co-sponsor it.

The sanctions fight in Congress is expected to last through much of 1988. No one expects an easy victory, but internationally coordinated, comprehensive, mandatory sanctions are a vital part of the struggle. In a statement to ACOA, the Rev. Allan Boesak, a patron of South Africa's United Democratic Front and president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, reiterated that call: "We still need stronger sanctions, [and] we are pinning our hopes on the Dellums/Cranston bill."

### St. Louis

## Activists Meet On Sanctions

Recognizing the need to mobilize more individuals around national, comprehensive sanctions legislation, ACOA convened a midwest sanctions conference in late October. The meeting was held in St. Louis and was organized by ACOA Projects Director Rob Jones with assistance from local St. Louis organizers. Activists from Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, and Missouri were present at the meeting, where

participants exchanged ideas and formulated concrete plans for working in the U.S. to make comprehensive sanctions a reality in 1988.

Participants shared with each other the tactics and strategies that had been used so successfully to win state and city divestment struggles and debated how these strategies could be used to build support for comprehensive sanctions.



## Publications

The following publications are available from ACOA. Prices are listed. Please add 15% postage on orders under \$5.00, 10% postage on all other orders. Indicate the number of copies desired. A more comprehensive literature list is available on request.

- 1988 SOUTH AFRICA CALENDAR (11 x 14 inches). The calendar consists of 12 powerful photographs of Black South Africa. Holland Committee on Southern Africa/ACOA \$10.00
- CUTTING THE "WIRE": LABOR CONTROL AND WORKER RESISTANCE IN NAMIBIA by Pippa Green, The Africa Fund 1987, 6pp. An overview of the growing Black labor movement in Namibia. 35¢. Over twenty, 20¢ each.
- UNLOCK APARTHEID'S JAILS, The Africa Fund 1987. Brochure for the campaign to release all detainees and political prisoners. Packets of ten, \$2.00. Packets of one hundred, \$10.00.
- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON DIVESTMENT, ACOA 1987, 4pp. An updated review of the arguments for divestment. 30¢. Over twenty, 15¢ each.
- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON SOUTH AFRICA SANCTIONS by William Minter, The Africa Fund 1986, 6pp. Answers commonly asked questions on sanctions. 35¢. Over twenty, 20¢ each.
- SOUTH AFRICA FACT SHEET, The Africa Fund 1986, 4pp. A compilation of key facts for activists. 30¢. Over twenty, 15¢ each.
- CHILDREN ON THE FRONT LINE; THE IMPACT OF APARTHEID, DESTABILIZATION AND WARFARE ON CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, UNICEF 1987, 67pp. \$5.00.

**A.F.R.I.C.A.** The rap group, Stetsasonic, has produced an album and video to protest U.S. support for South Africa's wars against the Frontline States. The Africa Fund has produced a teaching guide for use in conjunction with the record and video.

- A.F.R.I.C.A. by Stetsasonic with Olatunji and the Drums of Passion, Tommy Boy Music 1987. Check one: ☐ record \$5.00 ☐ audiocassette \$5.00.
- A.F.R.I.C.A. Video (VHS only) by Stetsasonic featuring the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Olatunji, Tommy Boy Music 1987. \$12.00.
- A.F.R.I.C.A. TEACHING GUIDE, The Africa Fund 1988, 20pp. \$3.00

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## Rap Record Sparks Education Drive



David Vita

Rev. Jesse Jackson joins Olatunji and the rap group Stetsasonic, at launching of anti-apartheid record. (Tommy Boy Records, 1987) The New York press conference marked the first public release of the record, video and teaching guide that are part of a new educational effort on the Frontline states by Tommy Boy Records and The Africa Fund.

Working with some of the same people who created the Sun City project, The Africa Fund has launched a new drive to educate Americans about South Africa's war against the Frontline states. The three-part educational package includes a new rap record, a music video and a teaching guide.

The centerpiece of the new drive is Stetsasonic's record/video A.F.R.I.C.A., produced by Tommy Boy Music. A.F.R.I.C.A. combines a fast paced, five-minute rap rhythm with lyrics that, in spelling out the names of the countries of the region, provide a dynamic picture of South Africa's attacks on neighboring countries.

Stetsasonic was inspired to write the rap after viewing a special segment of ABC News' "20/20" that covered Rev. Jesse

Jackson's trip to the Frontline states in 1986. But Stet, wanting to do more than just another rap, decided to combine the rap with commentary by Rev. Jesse Jackson and an African rhythm from Nigerian musician Olatunji with the Drums of Passion.

ACOA's associate The Africa Fund has combined the Tommy Boy record and video with a specially written teaching guide to provide a self contained teaching package accessible to a wide range of audiences. The 20-page teaching guide, which has already won high praise from activists and educators around the country, includes background materials on South Africa's war against its neighbors, sample lesson plans with questions and a resource list.

## WON'T YOU PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THIS MESSAGE?

As you read it thousands of children, men and women are suffering in South African prison cells.

Brutal beatings and electro-shock torture have become a daily reality even for 12-year-old children.

At the same time South Africa has launched an unprecedented campaign of murder and pillage in the neighboring countries of Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The American Committee on Africa has been in the forefront of the struggle against apartheid for more than thirty years.

**Now, more than ever, we need your help. Can we count on you?**

Yes, I want to help put an end to the violence and brutality of apartheid.

Here is my contribution of ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$10

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**American Committee on Africa, 198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038**



# ACOA AROUND THE COUNTRY

ACOA campaigns spread across the U.S. and around the world last year, reaching as far as Arusha, Tanzania and Stockholm, Sweden. Space limitations do not allow us to describe these campaigns and events in detail, but more information can be obtained by writing the office.

**STUDENTS GATHER:** London, England: ACOA staff members Lisa Crooms and Josh Nessen joined a delegation of U.S. students at an International Conference in Solidarity With Students and Youth in southern Africa last August. The conference was organized by the British Anti-Apartheid Movement, in cooperation with the National Union of Students and the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. New York, New York: 70 student and youth organizers gathered in New York in early September for a weekend of anti-apartheid strategizing that ACOA helped organize along with a coalition of local student organizations; it included hearings before the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. Following a call issued that weekend, students on 20 campuses held mid-October events in support of detainees and disinvestment and against domestic racism.

**MOBIL TARGETED:** As part of the national campaign against fueling apartheid, ACOA has worked with New York City activists to target Mobil Corp. in particular over the last year. The campaign has focused on civil disobedience actions at Mobil's New York City headquarters and is now expanding to include more joint events with, for instance, trade unions involved with the Shell Boycott.

**SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKING MINERS:** In response to urgent requests from striking mineworkers in South Africa, ACOA's associate The Africa Fund raised more than \$23,000 to support striking miners.

**NAMIBIAN TRADE UNIONIST TOURS:** Following the Chicago Namibia conference, ACOA organized a brief speaking tour for the head of the Metal and Allied Namibian Workers Union, Barnabus Tjizu. In early August, Tjizu traveled to Detroit, Michigan, Washington, D.C. and New York where he met with local and national union officials as well as some members of Congress and anti-apartheid activists.

**AFRICA PEACE TOUR:** ACOA staff members spent a total of three weeks in April 1987 traveling through the Southeastern United States, speaking as part of the Africa Peace Tour. As part of follow-up to this tour, ACOA Projects Director Rob Jones worked with activists to create an eight-state network of southern activists committed to continuing organizing as a Southern Africa Peace Tour Committee.

**UNITA:** As South Africa's war against Angola intensifies, U.S. supporters of the South African-backed UNITA rebels have been gaining ground. A number of pro-UNITA organizations, working in a context of the Reagan administration's own support for UNITA, are engaged in well-financed campaigns to misinform the public. ACOA has produced a number of briefing sheets on UNITA's activities and is also developing a background sheet on right-wing activities in the U.S. in support of UNITA.

**MOZAMBIQUE SUPPORT WORK:** In the last half of 1987, the South African backed Mozambique National Resistance stepped

up its attacks in Mozambique; brutally killing more than 800 innocent civilians and wreaking havoc on large parts of the country. ACOA has protested these massacres. Nationally, efforts to support Mozambique got a major boost with the formation of the Mozambique Support Network, which can be reached at: Mozambique Support Network, 343 S. Dearborn, #601, Chicago, Illinois 60604. (312-922-3286)

**SUN CITY:** The anti-apartheid album *Sun City* continued to generate excitement and raise substantial funds for humanitarian and educational activities during 1987. Altogether, ACOA's associate The Africa Fund has distributed some \$700,000 to support families of refugees and political prisoners in South Africa, the educational and cultural projects of the African National Congress that benefit refugees and anti-apartheid educational work in the U.S.

**SANCTIONS CONFERENCES:** ACOA's Projects Director Rob Jones traveled to Stockholm, Sweden in November to address an international conference on sanctions against South Africa, convened by a coalition of international solidarity groups. Two weeks later, ACOA's Jim Cason went to Arusha, Tanzania to attend an international conference convened by the ANC to bring together anti-apartheid activists from both inside South Africa and around the world. Following the conference, Cason was able to travel to southern Tanzania to visit SOMAFECO, the ANC school and refugee project.

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