

# American Committee On Africa

305 E. 46th St. • New York, N.Y. 10017 • Telephone (212) 838-5030

## NEWS

In New York Contact: Paul Irish  
(212) 962-1210

In Miami Contact: Raphael Gould  
(305) 972-1987

Kallie Knoetze, 24, a white South African boxer, is due to fight Bill Sharkey in a heavyweight bout at the Miami Convention Center January 13th. The bout is being promoted by Madison Square Garden and scheduled to be broadcast by CBS.

Until last month, when he resigned under pressure, Knoetze was a South African policeman. He was convicted in October on charges of "attempting and inciting others to defeat the ends of justice" after harassing the family of an African youth assaulted by a fellow police officer.

Knoetze admitted in court that he had earlier shot and crippled another 15 year old youth during a demonstration outside Pretoria in November 1977. "I shot him while he was hanging there like a fly" Knoetze said in court, reported by the South African Press Association.

Knoetze was sentenced to 150 days in jail or a Rand 300 fine. He chose the fine.

Knoetze requested that the court "prevent the Press reporting how he shot a Black boy of 15, claiming his career in America might be damaged" according to the Johannesburg Sunday Times.

"Knoetze represents the very worst in South African racial conditions--- a white cop who shoots black kids" stated the Rev. Jesse Jackson of PUSH.

Today, representatives of civil rights and anti-apartheid organizations will be meeting with David (Sonny) Werblin, president of Madison Square Garden, and with Frank Smith, president of CBS Sports, to urge that the match be cancelled.

Nonracial sports federations, representing the majority of South African athletes, have urged the international community to refuse sports contacts with athletes sanctioned by sports bodies operating on a racial basis in South Africa. The call for a boycott of athletes representing racist sport in South Africa, such as Knoetze, is supported by the recognized liberation movements of South Africa, the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations General Assembly.

Due to its persistent denial of equality, a cardinal principle of sports competition, South Africa has been excluded from numerous international competitions including the Olympics, the Davis Cup, and the International Amateur Boxing Association.

An ad hoc coalition of civil rights, church and labor organizations are planning to picket Knoetze's gymnasium this Saturday in Miami.