



American Committee On Africa

198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10038 / (212) 962-1210 / Cable AMCOMMAF

March, 1982

Dear Friends,

The American Committee on Africa and the Black United Front are cooperating in the launching of Southern Africa Sunday. This year the anniversary of Sharpeville, March 21st, is on a Sunday, and thus it seemed especially appropriate to get churches involved in marking the day. March 21st is also the first day of two weeks of action on southern Africa initiated by ACOA. Programs and actions will be taking place on college campuses throughout the country, culminating on April 4, the day Martin Luther King was killed in 1968.

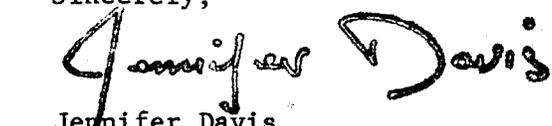
Southern Africa Sunday was announced at a press conference on March 1st. Church leaders in South Africa who oppose apartheid are among the newest targets of South African government attack. Four Lutheran pastors have been detained and tortured in the northern Transvaal, and the South African Council of Churches has been accused by a government commission of inquiry of "open, strong, and oft-repeated support for the armed liberation struggle." Many people fear that this is the prelude to a crackdown.

On March 21st, local New York congregations will be asked to write letters of support to the South African Council of Churches, and to the South African Government demanding the release of all political prisoners. We are also asking people to contact the Reagan Administration to demand an end to all support for apartheid. A copy of the press release is enclosed.

Southern Africa Sunday is an opportunity to reach a large number of New Yorkers, to get them involved in support for their brothers and sisters in South Africa. Out of this special emphasis we plan to press for involvement in the divestment campaigns that are under way in New York, in the state legislature and New York City Council. We will also encourage local and regional religious bodies to look at their own investment practices.

If you are part of a religious congregation that would like to mark March 21st, please call the office for the special resources that will be available. These include a fact sheet on the churches in South Africa, relevant press clips, and copies of a sermon by South African Council of Churches General Secretary Bishop Desmond Tutu, preached at The Riverside Church, March 22, 1981.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Davis
Executive Director

Encl.