COORDINATED WEEKS OF ACTION TO BE HIGHLIGHTED BY NATIONAL PROTEST DAY AGAINST U.S. INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA ON APRIL 4

New York, NY:

Protests against South African apartheid will be held at scores of campuses and in major cities during a two week action period from the end of March through the beginning of April, initiated by the American Committee on Africa (ACOA).

The actions will begin March 21, the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa where 69 unarmed protesters were gunned down by the South African police. It will end April 6, the day commemorating the death by hanging of African National Congress freedom fighter Solomon Mahlangu.

A national protest day for divestment will highlight the events on April 4, the day commemorating the assassination of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. April 4th protests for divestment of university funds linked to South Africa will occur at Harvard, Stanford, Yale, Columbia, Notre Dame, Dartmouth, Princeton, Hamilton, Amherst, and state university campuses in California, Colorado, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

On that same day protests against U.S. investors in South Africa will be held in several cities, including New York, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, Portland, Seattle, Washington DC, Baltimore and Albany.

The Detroit demonstration will feature a picket outside General Motors headquarters, the New York march will rally outside Mobil Oil headquarters and the Minneapolis action will target the First Bank of St Paul for its Krugerrand sales. Featured speakers during the weeks of action will include Rosa Parks at UC Berkeley, Congressman Ronald Dellums at Princeton, who has introduced legislation to ban U.S. investment in South Africa, and Jesse Jackson at Harvard on April 4.

Recent actions in Pittsburgh, New York City, Oakland, Boston, Newark, and San Francisco have brought the total of public funds to be divested of South Africa-related companies to over $1.2 billion. Legislation is pending in 28 states and many cities across the country. Recent university divestment actions at Harvard, Yale, the City University of New York, Western Washington University, and Evergreen State have brought the campus divestment total to $180 million since 1977.

According to Jennifer Davis, executive director of ACOA: "The weeks of action and April 4th protests will increase pressure for local divestment action and for national disinvestment legislation."

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