Dollars for Democracy in Namibia

On November 1, 1989 the people of Namibia will vote for the first time in their more than century-long colonial history.

A project of the Northeast Southern Africa Solidarity Network
HISTORY

NAMIBIA
Violent and repressive colonization of Namibia, a country of 1.5 million on the southwest Atlantic coast of Africa, began in 1884 under German rule. With the defeat of Germany in 1915, South Africa became the colonizer of Namibia and has maintained brutal rule over the Namibian people ever since.

SOUTH AFRICAN OCCUPATION: DECADES OF OPPRESSION
Exploiting the mandated responsibility for Namibia initially assigned to it by the League of Nations, and then by the United Nations (U.N.), apartheid South Africa has perpetrated a seven-decade reign of terror and occupation on the Namibian people, turning Namibia into a huge military garrison with upwards of 100,000 South African troops. Thousands of Namibians have been murdered and kidnapped, including the massacre of more than 600 people at Kassinga in 1978. South Africa has made billions of dollars of profit from the massive plunder of Namibia's mineral wealth and fisheries.

THE SOUTHWEST AFRICA PEOPLES ORGANIZATION
The Southwest Africa People's Organization - SWAPO, founded in 1960, has been leading the struggle for Namibia's independence and is recognized by the Namibian people and the international community as their authentic representative. In 1962, in response to intensifying South African oppression, SWAPO formed its military wing, which ultimately became the People's Liberation Army of Namibia - PLAN.

INDEPENDENCE PLAN - U.N. RESOLUTION 435
In 1978 the U.N. Plan for Namibian Independence was adopted - and embodied in UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 435. UNSCR 435 calls for South Africa to cease its illegal occupation. It also calls for a ceasefire, the repatriation of refugees, the repeal of apartheid laws, and the election of a government of the Namibian people's choosing. Until the elections, however, South Africa continues to rule and will set election laws, determine voter eligibility, devise procedures for voter registration, and 'police' the country. This is like getting the fox to guard the chicken.
IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 435

The most recent attempt to implement UNCSR 435 'began' on April 1, 1989 and elections are scheduled to take place on November 1, 1989.

Maneuvers on the part of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (U.S., Britain, USSR, China, France) have made a mockery of the UN 'supervision' of the transition; the original 7,500 member military component of the UN Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG), under the direction of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, was reduced to only 4,560 (less than 1,200 were in Namibia as of April 17th); PLAN cadres are being disarmed, while the occupying South African military forces remain virtually unchecked.

SOUTH AFRICAN SABOTAGE

South Africa's perpetual bad faith has been exemplified by its announcement that apartheid laws will not be repealed prior to the elections and that the voting age will be set at 21, eliminating a large number of young SWAPO supporters. Also, tens of thousands of 'voters' from the members of UNITA, the contra-like force South Africa supports in Angola, have been 'illegally' registered. These actions and other deceptions are attempts to put into place South African collaborators who will continue apartheid in other guises and strengthen the base for future destabilization of Namibia.
DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN

ALL WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY MUST COME TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

The people of Namibia are fighting against tremendous odds to achieve free and fair elections.

Millions of dollars are pouring into Namibia from South Africa and beyond to sabotage elections and derail independence.

To prepare for the November 1 elections SWAPO must conduct a massive voter education campaign to educate the people about the registration and election process. Resources are needed to travel throughout this huge country to distribute the election information to the dispersed Namibian population.

Since its formation SWAPO has been caring for tens of thousands of refugees. Disabled war victims, women, children and older people will be returning to Namibia in the coming months. Their resettlement will require massive rehabilitation programs.

YOUR "DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRACY" WILL CONTRIBUTE TO:

* Purchase of hundreds of thousands of dollars of medical supplies and care
* Build housing and resettlement facilities
* Provide child care and counseling.

* Produce hundreds of thousands of pieces of voter education literature.
* Maintain and transport volunteers throughout the country
* Purchase public address and audio-visual equipment and transportation vehicles
I. CONTRIBUTION
Enclosed is my contribution to the "Dollars for Namibia Campaign":
$1,000 ; $500 ; $100 ; $50 ; $25 ; Other .
(Make tax deductible checks/money orders payable to: PERA (Progressive Education & Research Associations)

Check Memo: "$Dollars for Namibia Campaign"
Send c/o: P.O. Box 1322 New Haven, CT. 06505

II. PLEDGE
I am pledging $ ___ per month until Namibia is totally free.

Name ____________________________________________ Phone # ____________

Address ____________________________________________ (street)
________________________ (city) __________________________ (zip code)
The Northeast Region Southern Africa Solidarity Network was formed out of a three-day conference in September, 1988 in New Haven, Connecticut. Members of fifty-five anti-apartheid and anti-racist organizations from 12 states from Maine to Washington, DC have come together to strengthen, consolidate, and coordinate the anti-apartheid efforts of the local organizations through the work of the Network.

The Network sees the current period as a critical point in anti-apartheid and pro-liberation work, particularly in the U.S. The organizations that comprise the Network have been working on a variety of issues: a just and peaceful resolution of regional Southern Africa conflicts; cessation of U.S. aid to Jonas Savimbi and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA); divestment; sanctions; corporate boycotts; education; mass demonstrations; lobbying at all levels of government; support of labor unions and the mass democratic movement in South Africa and Namibia; exposure of South Africa's nuclear industry in the production and refinement of uranium from Namibia.

Network organizations have also provided technical assistance in development and education to the frontline states (Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Tanzania, and Zambia).

To contact the Network, you can write to:
Northeast Southern Africa Solidarity Network (NESASN)
P.O. Box 1322, New Haven, CT 06505

Local Contact for Dollars for Democracy in Namibia Campaign:

(labor donated)