Dear Friend of SOMAFCO,

A 14-year-old boy lies sweating in the dark.

As he tosses feverishly in his sleep, he groans and mutters to himself continually in half-formed phrases in both English and Sotho:

"No... No... I don't know... please... don't hurt me..."

Wantu cries out and sits up. His eyes are wide, staring. His body still shakes from his nightmares.

Wantu is one of the tens of thousands of South African children -- as young as 9 years of age -- who have been arrested and tortured by the Security Forces.

In his short life, he has lost both his parents. He has been a victim of Apartheid violence and witnessed death. He has never been charged with an offence, yet has been detained numerous times and held in solitary confinement by the Security Police.

In 1982 a close friend disappeared without a trace, apparently kidnapped and murdered by the racists. Fearing for his own life, Wantu fled South Africa and made the dangerous journey to the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO).

Wantu had to undergo extensive treatment for the physical and psychological injuries he had suffered while in detention. A product of Apartheid education, he lacked basic skills in reading, math, and English.

Wantu says of his new surroundings, "I had previously heard of SOMAFCO and had high expectations but the practical experience was unbelievable! Under Apartheid education the instructors come to the classroom merely to do their duty and whether the student grasps the material is of no concern to them. At SOMAFCO the teachers are concerned about the individual progress of the students."

In South Africa the injustice and repression of Apartheid continues as it has for decades before.

(over, please...)
South African society continues to deny the vast majority of its people their basic civil rights. It is the only country in the entire world where laws discriminate on the basis of race:

- Black people have no say in the laws of their own land
- Black people cannot choose where they live
- Black people cannot enjoy the rights of living together as families
- All forms of peaceful protest against the policies of Apartheid have been outlawed

Apartheid must be ended. But this despicable system will not go away simply because the world wishes it to disappear.

Until democracy triumphs, South Africans like Wantu will have to continue their fight for freedom... despite the suffering and the cost.

In South Africa, the youth have taken their personal stand against Apartheid. Will you too take a stand to support our struggle?

Your contribution to the SOMAFCO Freedom Fund directly aids the schools, clinics, and vocational training programs that sustain these courageous young people. The end of racism in South Africa has taken longer than any of us would have imagined. Only the most active and continuing campaign against Apartheid has any chance of success.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Rybeck, Director
SOMAFCO Freedom Fund

P.S. -- Help end Apartheid now! Your contribution of $35 will be of great assistance in our struggle. Thank you.