Dear Friends:

The last nine months have seen dramatic and unprecedented events in South Africa. The highlight of the year was the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, and his subsequent visit to the United States.

Although from a distance, there appears to be a "new" South Africa, a South Africa in which the ANC can operate "unrestricted," we must not forget that there is still much suffering and repression. Only weeks ago, the South African government began once again to forcibly remove squatter communities (see article inside this issue). People continue to be detained and held without charge under Internal Security Act Section 29. The situation in Natal has reached horrifying proportions. Old forms of repression continue: there is no universal franchise, the Group Areas Act remains in effect, "Bantu" education is still the only form of education offered to Blacks.

This February, staff members were able to go to South Africa, to assess the work we have done there in the past, and the possibilities for the future. We have been able to support a number of the organizations at the forefront of the struggle, and will continue to do so as the situation in South Africa continues to change. FreeSA's assistance to the democratic movement is more crucial now than ever before. Thank you for your continued support.

Outside the Soweto home of Nelson and Winnie Mandela. This photograph was taken by FreeSA staff person Judie Blair, just days after Nelson Mandela was released from prison.

NELSON MANDELA TAKES U.S. BY STORM

Rarely has a figure captured the nation's attention and admiration the way Nelson Mandela did during his recent visit to the United States. The euphoria surrounding his visit was unparalleled.

Nelson Mandela's mission in the United States was two-fold: to highlight the continued need for sanctions, and, no less important, to raise desperately needed funds for the African National Congress. South Africa has only just begun to travel the long road to freedom. Now is not the time to relax pressure on the apartheid regime, but to maintain it until the process is irreversible. It has become clear that the African National Congress will play a dominant role in shaping a new South Africa, but its resources are currently far below what is necessary for the task. The ANC has only been legal for six months and must now find the funds to regain its rightful place after 30 years as an underground and exiled organization.

Nelson Mandela met with great success in both of his goals. His political message was enthusiastically received everywhere, from urban schools to the halls of Congress and the White House. Fundraising efforts

—continued on page 2
also met with success — the tour raised several million dollars, approximately $450,000 in Boston alone.

Fund for a Free South Africa (FreeSA) was honored to take part in Nelson Mandela’s whirlwind ten-day tour of the United States. FreeSA coordinated all aspects of the Boston visit, and hosted the delegation while they were here. Executive Director Themba Vilakazi was able to meet privately with Nelson Mandela, and traveled to Los Angeles for further meetings with the delegation after they had left Boston.

The visit was particularly significant for FreeSA because it marked a homecoming of sorts for Zwelakhe Sisulu, one of FreeSA’s founders. He came to the US this year as a member of the Mandela delegation. Also in the delegation were FreeSA advisory board members Winnie Mandela and Sister Bernard Ncube.

On July 16th, for the third time that month, bulldozers moved in to demolish shacks in Dobsonville, Soweto. Two people were injured. Winter demolitions such as these have continued despite the government’s assurances of a more humane South Africa. Residents that were left homeless and have no immediate prospect of finding new living quarters are surviving outside in sub-freezing temperatures. Kim Berman was able to visit the site two days later and sent us a report and an urgent request for help.

**REPORT ON DEMOLITION OF DOBSONVILLE SHACKS**

by Kim Berman

Soweto, South Africa: I went with someone from the Soweto Civic Association to Dobsonville. There we met with a representative from the Dobsonville Civic Association. He gave me quite an extensive report, and the situation is desperate. I will just give a summary of some of the facts.

The South African Council of Churches and the Red Cross have given a little money for bread and milk. The Red Cross supplied 20 tents and medical supplies — some
In July, government forces began the destruction of a squatter community in Dobsonville, a township outside of Johannesburg. In a desperate attempt to save their homes, residents stood between bulldozers and their shacks. Their appeals were not heeded.

of which have been confiscated by the City Council (a group established by the government which does not represent the interests of the residents).

An emergency tent was set up to treat children who had contracted bronchitis and measles after having been exposed to the cold when their shacks were demolished. The City Council confiscated the "health tent" and the two healthcare workers were detained. Building materials have also been confiscated. Residents were rebuilding their homes for the third time on Tuesday when the demolition team bulldozed 65 homes and 30 people were arrested. The City Council has refused to give a clear explanation of what the present land that has been cleared will be used for.

Many of the residents have been on a waiting list for housing since the late 70's and early 80's. The government last built houses in Soweto in 1968. One man has been moving around from shack to shack, and the third generation of his family still has nowhere to live, although he is employed.

The present situation of these Dobsonville residents involves about 50 families averaging 5-6 members each. As far as I can assess, emergency needs would be food, blankets, lawyers fees, doctors, etc. The community mostly involves women and children. Donations for the evicted Dobsonville residents can be sent to Fund for a Free South Africa, 729 Boylston St., Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02116. Checks should be made out to: Free-SA/Dobsonville.

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THIS ISSUE

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SOUTH AFRICAN DOMESTIC WORKERS UNION FIGHTS OPPRESSION

By some estimates, there are as many as 4 million domestic workers in South Africa. Working conditions are poor, with long hours, small compensation and almost no job security. Many domestic workers must leave their families behind in the rural areas, seeing them only once a year when they are allowed a brief holiday.

The severe housing shortages for Blacks in South Africa make domestic workers there extremely vulnerable to abuses. Without a "room in the backyard," these women are often left to fend for themselves in squatter camps, making them dependent on the good will of their employers.

In 1986, after years of accepting intolerable working conditions, the South African Domestic Workers' Union (SADWU) was established. SADWU was the result of the unification of five regional domestic workers' unions, all striving for reasonable working conditions, including realistic pay and a 5 day/46 hour work week.

Operating nationally, SADWU seeks to empower women who earn their living as domestic workers. Union programs seek to redress the injustices of inferior education, a lack of opportunity for other employment, and the perpetuation of a system of government which allows one race to abuse another without constraint. SADWU seeks to create humane working conditions, while preparing its membership for a future South Africa.

SADWU has adopted the Freedom Charter and become a member of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). Florence Devillers, General Secretary of SADWU, is currently a member of the Executive Committee of COSATU. SADWU's national platform includes: paid maternity and annual leave in addition to all public holidays; sick leave; benefits, including accommodation, meals and transport allowance; and employment contracts.

Recently, SADWU embarked on a groundbreaking series of legal battles in small claims courts. Domestic workers, with union support, have begun to take their employers to court over unfair dismissal and low pay. Once brought to trial, an estimated 90% of the workers win their cases.

An education program launched by SADWU instructs women on a variety of union-related activities, such as organizing and negotiating, in addition to providing basic literacy skills. Given the years of substandard "Bantu Education," this supplementary education is invaluable. There is a cultural section of the union as well, which uses theater to depict the women's struggle.

Introducing Uncensored
all the news from South Africa

The necessity for a publication like Uncensored became apparent at the time of the imposition of the State of Emergency in South Africa in June, 1986. Since that time the government has severely restricted or banned outright all media deemed "subversive" by its Publications Control Board. By refusing to defy the media ban, the United States' media has acted in complicity with the apartheid regime. Many atrocities which are committed daily by the South African government in both South Africa and the Frontline States have therefore gone unreported in this country.

Uncensored consists of news clippings, essays, and articles derived from The Weekly Mail, The New Nation, A.N.C. News Briefings, Learn and Teach, Work in Progress, and other papers and journals published inside South Africa. Uncensored aims to supplement the void created by the American press, as the weekly show South Africa Now strives to accomplish on public television.

YES, I would like to subscribe to 10 issues of Uncensored, enclosed please find:

___ $50 (for organizations, departments, and institutions)
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NAME: __________________________
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Make check payable to: Fund For A Free South Africa/Uncensored.
VICTIM OF BORDER RAID
COMES TO BOSTON FOR MEDICAL CARE
AND TO EDUCATE PEERS
ABOUT APARTEID'S LONG SHADOW

On November 18, 1989, FreeSA was glad to welcome to the United States, Nthabiseng Mabuza and her family. Nthabiseng is the daughter of politically active South African exiles and was the victim of a savage attack on her family by the now infamous South African death squads.

Nthabiseng was injured in June of 1986, when her home was invaded during a South African border raid into Botswana. Soldiers wearing masks opened fire; Nthabi's aunt was killed, her uncle injured and she herself was shot seven times. Nthabi's spine was severed and she was left paraplegic.

The Mabuza family fled to Zimbabwe as soon as Nthabiseng could be moved. They spent the next three years in fear, living under a police guard. During this time, Nthabi's condition deteriorated and she was in constant pain. An appeal was made to FreeSA to aid the family.

The fear and most of the pain are behind her now. Since her arrival, she has received medical care and rehabilitation at New England Medical Center. FreeSA is providing financial support for the family through funds it raises specifically for them. Nthabiseng, in turn, has provided inspiration to all of us who have come to know her. She is sixteen years old now and a typical teenager in many ways. A student at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, Nthabi loves music, movies and having lots of friends. Yet, there is another side to Nthabi; her positive outlook on life has given her a strong will to survive and a determination to do the near impossible. She proved this recently when, with the aid of braces, she stood up and walked for the first time in almost four years.

Since her arrival, Nthabiseng has given several interviews to the press, both on television and in print. One highlight of this coverage was a Globe editorial about Nthabiseng and the recent revelations about South African death squad activities. She was interviewed for a national newsletter that will appear on the birthday of Malcolm X. This publicity has helped to keep the issue of the violence of apartheid in the public eye.

Nthabiseng has made herself available to people her own age and has spoken at various schools. She freely discusses what happened to her and how so many others have suffered under the system of apartheid. Her special concern is the violence against children and she has proven to be an effective voice in the anti-apartheid movement. Nthabiseng is forever connected to the issues in South Africa, although she has yet to live within its borders.
COFFEE + CREDIT CARDS = EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

ANTI-APARTHEID COFFEE

Equal Exchange has been supporting cooperative farmers in the Third World since 1986. Begun by three veterans of the food cooperative movement, Equal Exchange provides a sympathetic marketing channel for Third World cooperatives — a link between Third World farmers and U.S. consumers.

The latest product to be introduced by Equal Exchange is Cafe Libre, “the anti-apartheid coffee.” This effort represents the organization's first foray into Africa.

Equal Exchange has been buying high-quality coffee beans from Zimbabwe and Tanzania to make Cafe Libre. Normally, Equal Exchange would return a portion of its profits to a local cooperative. A coffee-producing cooperative in the region has not, as yet, been identified, however, and until one is located, FreeSA will be receiving a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Cafe Libre. For every pound purchased, twenty cents will go to FreeSA.

Equal Exchange products are sold nationally. If you do not see Cafe Libre, which is sold in bean form from bins, at your local store, ask the store manager if the coffee can be stocked. If you or the store manager would like further information about Equal Exchange and their products, please contact Yuri Kazinsky, at Equal Exchange, 101 Tosca Dr., Stoughton, MA 02072.

CREDIT FOR AN EQUAL SOCIETY

This year FreeSA was selected as a recipient of a grant from Working Assets Funding Service. Working Assets is a California-based company which provides funds to progressive non-profit organizations from customer fees for credit cards, long distance phone service and travel services.

This process, which they call "greentapping," offers competitively priced services that divert money that would otherwise go to banks, phone companies and other large corporations. Rather than keeping the fees associated with these services, Working Assets donates their profits to a general pool. This year they distributed $365,415 to 32 organizations, including FreeSA.

Working Assets cardholders and long-distance users are able to nominate organizations involved in peace, economic justice, human rights and environmental issues as potential recipients. Each year, Working Assets customers vote to decide which of these organizations will be awarded funds.

If you would like further information, write or call Working Assets Funding Service, 230 California Street, San Francisco, CA, 94111, (415) 788-0777.

South African Relief, Inc.
Fund for a Free South Africa
729 Boylston St., Fifth Floor
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 267-8333
THE VIOLENCE OF APARTHEID

By Themba Vilakazi

After the hopes and optimism generated by the release of Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and other long term political prisoners, the unbanning of the African National Congress and the beginning of preliminary talks which produced agreements between Pretoria and the African National Congress, the violence of apartheid has reasserted itself with a deadly vengeance.

More than five hundred black South Africans have been killed in the two week period beginning on August twelfth. This recent carnage is the expansion of the violence that has resulted in the killings of more than three thousand in the last four years in the province of Natal. On one side of this war are Inkatha supporters loyal to Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, on the other side are all those who do not pay allegiance to Buthelezi, especially the members of the United Democratic Front, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the ANC.

Press reports reaching these shores have been very short on an analysis of the strife, and long on shallow headlines proclaiming "Blacks Kill Blacks in S.A." and "Tribal War Claims Hundreds". It is with this simplistic and misleading description of the violence that we take issue.

In Natal, the warring parties were primarily Zulu speaking people. In the Johannesburg area, while Inkatha supporters were also almost all Zulu speaking people, their victims were Xhosa speaking hostel dwellers, and the ethnically mixed permanent black urban population, which also includes Zulu speaking people. Ethnicity is of minimal significance in the strife.

More than misleading, characterization of the current conflict as "tribal violence" is a purposeful insult. To American ears, "tribe" implies primitive, wild and uncivilized. The subliminal message is that blacks are unfit for the responsibility of running a modern democratic state.

In reality, the designs and manipulations of state structures of apartheid have created the atmosphere of frustration and despair which cultivates the violence.

To stem the urbanization of blacks, the architects of apartheid put in place an inhumane and repressive migrant labor policy. One of the results of this policy was the construction of single sex barracks, called hostels, in urban black communities.

The inmates of these hostels are rural black men who come to the city on temporary
contracts. Black laborers from the area governed by Buthelezi obtain these contracts through the Inkatha political machinery controlled by chiefs loyal to Buthelezi. The contract laborers are not permitted to bring their families. These men live in squalid, crowded, fenced-in hostels physically isolated and socially alienated from the rest of the black community. They are mostly illiterate and highly underpaid. These men are the brunt of jokes and often are victims of urban crime. This dehumanizing environment has quite naturally resulted in high levels of frustration and resentment among the hostel inmates.

These conditions are manipulated by the white commanders of the South African Police who are vehemently opposed to the changes that are taking place in South Africa, as well as by the rural Inkatha chiefs who see their state supported traditional authority being undermined by the liberation forces. The collusive and provocative behavior of the white commanders in the South African police in this case is akin to the belligerence of police departments in southern towns during the civil rights era.

The authority of the Inkatha chiefs in the hostels is exercised through their foremen, who manipulate and orchestrate the attacks by hostel inmates. The police use this same chain of command. Inmates who have refused to participate in the attacks have been assaulted, and at least 2 inmates have been killed. Other inmates have abandoned the hostels rather than face Inkatha.

Attacks on targeted communities show signs of advance planning and coordination. Rallies are used as assembly points from which attacks are launched. Large groups of Inkatha armies have paraded heavily armed through streets, invariably escorted by the police who have consistently failed to prevent the violence.

Five hundred people were killed in less than two weeks. In that period, there was not a single arrest related to the killings. The arrest performance record for Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's police force in the Natal area is equally dismal.

Blacks are still being victimized by apartheid state structures. Hope for peace lies in large part in the ability of the international community to place the responsibility for the brutality in South Africa squarely on the de Klerk government. Black police have the potential to resist the conspiracy of their white commanders, thereby beginning the process of transforming the South African Police from being an apartheid force, to one truly protective of the rights and safety of all the people of South Africa.

Boston, Massachusetts
September 5, 1990