

# Defend Mozambique - Defeat Apartheid

Join the Soweto Day 1990 Walkathon

On June 16, 1976, 20,000 students in Soweto South Africa marched to protest the use of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in their schools. These students were inspired by the 1975 liberation of Mozambique from Portuguese rule.

Little did those students or their brothers and sisters in Mozambique realize what lay ahead for them at the hands of the apartheid regime.

The June 16th demonstration was met with violent police action. Over 1000 children ranging in age from 6 to 20 were killed or wounded; many were shot in the back as they ran to avoid the conflict. Out of this terrible massacre at Soweto came a new resolve of the South African people to free themselves from apartheid. Thousands of young people left South Africa to join the ranks of the ANC. June 16 became a day of commemoration throughout the anti-apartheid community in honor of the courageous students who gave their lives in the struggle for freedom.

In Mozambique, the triumph of independence which inspired the students at Soweto was soon soured by the terrorist destabilization caused by the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO). RENAMO was first directed and funded by

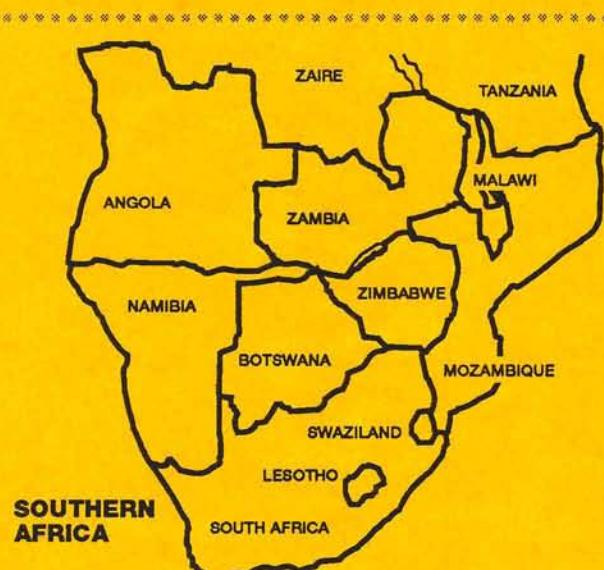
the white colonialist government of Rhodesia in an attempt to thwart liberation forces in its own war of independence. Since the 1980 liberation of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), support for RENAMO has been taken over by the South African government. South Africa's motives have been to keep Mozambique from being used as a base for anti-apartheid forces as well as to maintain South Africa's economic stranglehold on this newly independent nation. South Africa's war against Mozambique was to be an example to the oppressed of South Africa as well as the other frontline states of what was in store for those who challenged South Africa's white minority control.

In the past 13 years of terrorism, RENAMO has killed over 100,000 people, many of them young children, created one million refugees and threatened five million with starvation. RENAMO tactics often involve random, brutal attacks aimed at destroying Mozambique's infrastructure as well as demoralizing survivors. Schools, hospitals, factories and farms have been targets of terrorist attacks destroying Mozambique's fragile post-colonial economy. Attacks on individuals



often include mutilation, murder and rape of victims in front of their children and other family members. Men, women and children are frequently kidnapped and forced into service of RENAMO. Babies too young to be useful are killed or left behind. RENAMO has no consistent political philosophy or organization. The rebels are known in Mozambique as "bandits".

And yet, in spite of South Africa's attempts to destroy their country, Mozambicans have not lost their resolve to remain a free and independent nation. The Mozambique government, led since independence



## Since 1982, South Africa's war has cost Mozambique .....

- 100,000 lives - as a direct result of RENAMO activity  
One Mozambican child dies every four minutes.
- 100,000 lives in famine of 1983-84 due to drought and war
- 25% of the population forced to become refugees
- 400 teachers assassinated, kidnapped or mutilated. 36% of schools destroyed or forced to close causing 25% attendance loss.
- \$6,000 million - twice the country's foreign debt and 60 times the value of 1987 exports in material damage.
- 31% of health post destroyed with a loss of health care to 2 million people.

# Soweto Day Walkathon

by the Frelimo Party, has battled South Africa and RENAMO militarily and diplomatically. The Mozambican people through their churches and other organizations have struggled to deal with the tragic results of RENAMO's terrorism.

The Soweto Day 1990 Walkathon will raise funds to assist two of these organizations in their efforts to rebuild Mozambique:

- The Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM) helps to meet the emergency needs of Mozambicans by providing seeds, tools, household implements, clothing, blankets and medicine to some of the people displaced by the war. CCM's rehabilitation efforts include developing agricultural and water resources, rebuilding medical clinics, developing primary health care programs, building schools and developing training programs to support long term development goals. CCM supports the Mozambican economy by purchasing materials and emergency supplies within the country when possible.
- The Organization of Mozambican Women (OMM) conducts production, health care and education programs with the full participation of women. The OMM promotes maternal and child health programs, conducts literacy campaigns and organizes the building of temporary housing for people displaced from their land. OMM has been instrumental in developing programs to help children traumatized by the war. OMM has always prioritized the economic participation of women and has organized a variety of programs including agricultural, sewing and brickmaking cooperatives and bakeries to help women develop the skills and independence essential to their full and equal participation in the new Mozambican society.

Last year's Soweto Day

Walkathon, which was sponsored by CCISSA and Church World Service, raised \$12,000 to aid detainees and their families inside South Africa. This year, joined by the Mozambique Support Network, we hope to raise even more to aid victims of South Africa's war against Mozambique. Walkathon pledge forms are available through any of the sponsoring organizations. If you cannot participate in the Walkathon, please make a contribution by mail using the clip-off form on page 8 of this newsletter.

However, we encourage you all to attend the Walkathon on June 16th. Last year's walkers really enjoyed the South side route and the fine company of a wide variety of city and suburban participants from churches, labor unions, peace and justice groups and civic and community organizations.

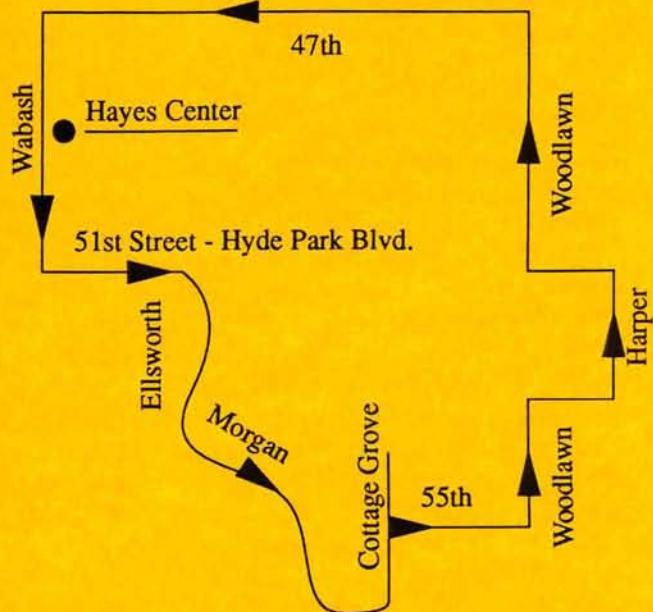
Again this year the Soweto Day Walkathon will begin and end at the Charles Hayes Community Center at 4859 S. Wabash in Chicago. This year's route will be slightly different but will again include a variety of South Side neighborhoods (see map).

This year the Walkathon will be preceded by a Prayer Service at St. John Church Baptist at 4835 S. Michigan from 9 - 9:30 AM. The Prayer Service will be sponsored by Church World Service.

Once again, the Walkathon will be followed by a 1 PM Rally sponsored by the Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid at the Hayes Community Center. Food and beverages will be available for a reasonable price at the Rally.

## Walkathon Map

Total Distance ~10 Kilometers (6.2 Miles)



Join us for this important event! Heed the call of Nelson Mandela and the ANC to redouble our efforts until apartheid is completely abolished - freeing not only South Africa's majority population but also the Southern Africa region from apartheid's stranglehold. Commemorate Soweto Day by participating in the 1990 Walkathon.

### For more information contact:

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