Capital District Coalition
Against Apartheid
and Racism
Box 3002 - Pine Hills Station
Albany, New York 12202
A Project of the Social Justice Center

October 1990 Newsletter

Next General Meeting of CDCAAR
Thursday, Oct. 26, 1990 at 7:00 p.m.
Albany Public Library
Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y.
All interested in working in the anti-apartheid and the anti-racist movement,
Welcome
The struggle continues...

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia
To The United Nations
801 Second Avenue, Room 1401, New York, N.Y. 10017
Telephone: (212) 557-2450, Telex: 237249, Fax: (212) 986-9736

Re: Relocation
Kindly be informed that the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations will be moving to a new location as of September 1, 1990. The new address is as follows:
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia
to the United Nations
135 East 36th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016
In last month's newsletter we announced the formation of the Center for Law & Justice, Inc. by Dr. Alice Green. Below is a more detailed description of the Center:

Center for Law & Justice, Inc.
Pine West Plaza Building 2
Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, New York 12205
(518) 427-8361

Alice Green, Ph.D.

The Center for Law & Justice

The Center for Law and Justice, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit tax exempt organization. Funding will come from public and private sources including donations and grants.

The Center is a civil rights and civil liberties organization whose primary mission is to provide advocacy and research information in an effort to shape public policy in the area of criminal justice. Furthermore, the center is concerned with promoting fairness, justice, and accountability within the system. Its chief goal is to diminish the undue governmental reliance upon imprisonment as a means of social control of people of color and the poor.

To accomplish its mission and goal, the Center will:

* Monitor local and state activities of major criminal justice agencies, programs, and legislation and make recommendations for change.
* Provide criminal justice advocacy to the poor and people of color.
* Provide research information and statistics in the treatment and involvement of people of color in the criminal justice system.
* Sponsor community symposiums, forums, and programs to educate and explore ways to empower people of color so that they can improve the quality of their own lives.

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism has a subcommittee which works on the issues of police abuse and racist violence. We are working with the Center for Law & Justice to coordinate the anti-police abuse campaign and to combat the bias that minorities are subjected to by the Criminal Justice System.

If you would like to work with the subcommittee, please fill out the form on the opposite page.
What about the violence in South Africa?
In recent months there has been an escalation of violence in South Africa. This violence is often attributed to "tribal" differences between the Inkatha movement of Chief Gatsha Buthelezi which is made up of Zulu people and the African National Congress which counts many Khosa people in its leadership. The mainstream U.S. media has been quick to label the violence as "tribal" or "Black on Black" struggles offering little or no analysis of what is really going on. We need to read between the lines. There are many forces, both in South Africa and in the U.S., who would like to see a lessening of the role of the ANC in the negotiations for a New South Africa. We urge you to read the following press release, issued on September 13, 1990, by the African National Congress for a clearer picture of what is really behind the violence.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
801 Second Ave., Suite 605, N.Y., N.Y. 10017
Observer Mission to the United Nations

Since the Sebokeng massacre of 22nd July, 1990, an unprecedented wave of violence has swept across the face of the Transvaal. Despite numerous attempts to end it, undertaken by community leaders, the regional leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) and the intervention of the ANC's leaders, it has not abated and seems set to continue unchecked unless taken in hand.

During the night commencing 3rd September, a brutal pre-dawn raid was launched on the inhabitants of the hostels in Sebokeng. During the course of that incident it emerged that no less than four white persons, their faces concealed by balaclava helmets, participated in the carnage that followed.

After the residents of Sebokeng had surrounded the hostels, trapping the raiders inside, South African Defence Force (SADF) units were called in by the police. In an unprovoked attack they opened fire on the crowd, killing 11 people. In the ensuing confusion, the pre-dawn raiders, including the four whites, were taken out of the hostels and bussed out of the area, still fully armed, reportedly in police casspirs.

Among those arrested and detained by the police, after being identified by a number of residents and hostel dwellers, was one Mr. Themba Khoza, leader of the Inkatha Youth Brigade in the Transvaal. Mr. Khoza had already been named as implicated in a
number of incidents of violence in the Transvaal. Sebokeng was the first time he was caught, practically red-handed, ferrying firearms to Inkatha supporters. Various eye-witnesses saw Mr. Khoza shooting some of the victims of their attack.

On 24th August, 1990, The Weekly Mail carried a lengthy account by a "frightened hostel dweller" who had been coerced into joining Inkatha and forced to commit acts of violence against other hostel dwellers and township residents. It was clear from this report that the violence was not a spontaneous eruption but rather a well orchestrated plan, conceived by some diabolical agency with a view to spreading death and mayhem. The Weekly Mail's informant unequivocally stated that the police are involved in both organising and transporting the attackers from place to place at night.

On 26th July, 1990, three days before the official launch of the South African Communist Party (SACP), an Inkatha leader addressed meetings in Jabulani Hostels inciting the audience to launch attacks on persons displaying the insignia of the SACP. These activities and the name of the speaker were brought to the notice of the police. On the weekend of 28th July, a number of crudely forged leaflets, ostensibly issued by the ANC, were distributed in Soweto and other townships. Their intention was to create a climate of fear and apprehension among the Zulu-speaking population of the township, especially the migrant workers, by giving the impression that the ANC, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) intended attacking them and driving them out of the hostels. These too were brought to the attention of the authorities and the media. A similar leaflet appeared in townships of the East Rand during the week of August 26th.

The mounting evidence and the avalanche of allegations of police and other security personnel involvement with the vigilantes of Inkatha convinces us that we are confronting a phenomenon which has become quite familiar in the Frontline States. We witnessed it when the bandit gang of RENAMO, established, trained and provisioned by the illegal Smith regime of former Rhodesia, first went into action. It is a matter of record that since 1979 the South African government has taken over that function.

The intention of the campaign of violence is quite clear. Its purpose is:

To incite violence among the different sections of the African population and thus distract their attention from the root causes of poverty, hunger, low wages and economic exploitation in this country.
To destroy the ANC and other democratic formations in the townships by the piecemeal murder of their personnel and supporters;

To build a psychosis of fear, insecurity and terror among the people so as to make them more amenable to a regime of martial law;

To derail the process of peaceful transition presently underway.

The fact of the matter is that while the ANC has sincerely been talking peace with the government, war has been declared on the ANC, its allies and the other democratic formations of our people.

The South African government has been called upon to put an end to this violence by every quarter of public opinion in the country. And yet:

It has failed to act against the perpetrators of the massacre of July 22nd in Sebokeng

It has failed to take action against those individuals who have deliberately stirred up the violence in the Transvaal.

It has failed to take the appropriate steps to uncover those in its security forces, including the police, who are implicated in these acts of terror and violence.

The National Working Committee of the ANC, after lengthy deliberations, has decided to convene an emergency meeting of the National Executive Committee which will specifically focus on the violence which has now become endemic, review the prevailing situation in our country, and our strategic and tactical options in the light of the current circumstances. The National Executive Committee meeting is scheduled to commence on Tuesday, September 18th, 1990 in Johannesburg.

Issued by: The Department of Information and Publicity, P.O. Box 61884, Marshalltown 2307, Johannesburg.

This press release reprinted and distributed by Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism a project of the Social Justice Center of Albany, N.Y.
Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism
Police Abuse/Racist Violence Subcommittee

I am interested in working with the Police Abuse and Racist Violence Subcommittee of the CDCAAR in conjunction with the Center for Law & Justice. I am interested in work in the following areas:

- Police Abuse complaint intake
- Administrative
- Computer Programming
- Computer Data Entry
- Research Projects
- Anti-death penalty work
- Court monitoring Rensselaer and Albany

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Please send this form to:
CDCAAR, Police Abuse/Racist Violence Committee
c/o Merton Simpson
439 Livingston Ave., Apt. #2
Albany, N.Y. 12206

If you have any messages or questions, please call Merton Simpson c/o Alice Green (518) 427-6961.

Update on Donna DeMaria and the Albany Police...

In last month’s newsletter we reported about the trumped up charges against community activist, Donna DeMaria. Justice was served when the Albany Country Grand Jury refused to indict Donna. Community protests and letters to local newspapers showed the extent of support for Donna. Congratulations to Donna and to the community which responded to the police department’s nonsense - but chilling - charges.
Two important dates:
Randall Robinson in Albany, OCT. 23, 1990
Next CDCAAR meeting OCT. 25 1990

SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER AWARDS DINNER NOV. 3, 1990

The Social Justice Center is the umbrella organization for several progressive organizations working on issues of peace and justice in the Capital District. CDCAAR is a member and our relationship with the SJC is a very valuable one. We encourage all our members to attend this dinner - a time to socialize with others in the activist community. The event will take place on Saturday, November 3, 1990 from 5:00 to 9:00 pm at Bethlehem High School, 700 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, N.Y. Rides and childcare are available. To get your tickets, call the SJC at 434-4037 or Peter Belint, CDCAAR representative to SJC at 438-5975.

INTIFADA YEAR THREE OCT. 24, 1990

The Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights is sponsoring a presentation by Andrew Courtney of Westchester Peoples Action Committee - "What about Israel's Occupation?" The crisis in the Arabian peninsula has detracted attention from the Palestinians under occupation. However, life under occupation has not changed. The killings, beatings, and demolitions continue. This program is open to the public and will take place at the Albany Public Library, Wednesday, October 24, 1990 at 6:45 pm.
De Klerk Is No Hero to Me

By Randall Robinson

WASHINGTON — President Bush welcomed South Africa's President, F. W. de Klerk, to the White House yesterday. I hope I wasn't the only one asking, "What's wrong with this picture?"

In extending a friendly handshake to Mr. de Klerk, Mr. Bush set an important precedent: He became the first U.S. President to meet the highest representative of a society organized on the principles of segregation and brutal racial exploitation.

Mr. de Klerk's public relations team has worked hard to portray him as a crusader for reasonable and moderate change, a patient and well-intentioned man. And the Bush Administration has at times appeared eager to accept exaggerated claims of progress and reform.

The reality is that little has changed under the de Klerk Government. In some respects, things have gotten much worse.

While Mr. de Klerk tours Washington, his nation is gripped in a spasm of violence. Over the last six weeks, more than 800 black South Africans have been killed in what the U.S. press usually describes as "factional" or "tribal" violence.

In fact, this violence is directly rooted in the apartheid system Mr. de Klerk's Government still maintains. There is also convincing and disturbing evidence that security forces under Mr. de Klerk's control have permitted and even participated in, most of this "factional" strife.

Some of the fighting is directly related to the apartheid system. Where the Zulu organization headed by Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi and Inkatha, the Zulu organization has been, is attacked almost to the day with Chief Buthelezi's announced intention to expand his power beyond his Natal base.

Eyewitness accounts of police participation or acquiescence in Inkatha violence are far too numerous to discredit. In Natal, the police openly side with Inkatha, usually intervening well after Chief Buthelezi's thugs have attacked and retreated.

A recent report by the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists concluded that "the police are seen as both player and referee, and in some cases their conduct has been violent and cruel." Another report, issued in Pretoria in August by the Government-appointed Goldstone Commission, has lent further credence to reports of police collusion with Inkatha.

The commission found that police sometimes failed to stop attacks that they had advance knowledge of, and that they often failed to disarm Inkatha members.

Randall Robinson, Executive Director of TransAfrica, an African American foreign policy lobbying group for Africa and the Caribbean, will appear in Albany on October 23, 1990. He will be here to take part in a lecture series sponsored by the New York African American Institute. Co-sponsors of the event are the Department of African and African American Studies at SUNY Albany, the Albany Branch, NAACP and the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Albany, N.Y.

Randall Robinson is executive director of TransAfrica, a foreign-policy lobbying group.
"Reebok is not in South Africa. Reebok shoes are not made in South Africa. Reebok instructed its United Kingdom distributor not to renew its distributions contract in South Africa in 1986. Reebok acquired Avia in 1987; Avia has no business relationship with any company in South Africa." THE AFRICA FUND 1988

"Those of us who have been involved with the struggle to end apartheid have used various strategies to reach that goal. One of our most effective approaches is to highlight and reproach American corporations which are doing business in South Africa. We have been very successful in getting hundreds of corporations to withdraw from bolstering an economy based on oppression. In addition, we have been keeping the glare of public scrutiny on those still operating in South Africa.

In is incumbent, therefore that we in the anti-apartheid community salute those corporations that are actively involved in peacefully transforming South Africa into a democratic state. Yours (REEBOK) is one such corporation. Your chairman and president, Paul Fireman and Joe LaBone respectively, have demonstrated above and beyond all expectations their commitment to human rights and a free South Africa.

Though your company has been haunted by a rumor that it is doing business in South Africa, Reebok is now the only footwear company I'm certain is not in South Africa.

Furthermore, it is one of the few corporations, if not the only one, that has embraced human rights as a corporate value.

Thus, I would like to salute Reebok and all of its employees for their dedication to human rights, a free South Africa and a responsible corporate America."

RANDALL ROBINSON, TRANSAFRICA, 1989

Now Available - A Unified List of United States Companies Doing Business in South Africa

This Third Edition 1990 identifies companies with ownership in South Africa as well as companies with licensing, franchising, distribution agreements and other business ties. Also included are banks with loans or financial links to South Africa. Some 700 companies are profiled. This is an indispensable resource for anyone concerned about the U.S. corporate role in South Africa. Updated through mid-1990. This directory is available through the Africa Fund, 198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10038. The Price is $10.00 for individuals, $30.00 for institutions. All orders must include $2.00 postage.