NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 26, 7:30 PM
URBAN LEAGUE, C/O LIVINGSTON AND TEN BROECK, ALBANY, NY.

* RACIAL VIOLENCE UPDATE
- Review of the April 23 forum on racist violence.
- The mayor's response to the CDCAAR demands for disciplinary action against policewoman, Valerie von Dollen-Burke.
- The historic decision holding the police department responsible for the violation of the civil rights and assault of 1 Black and 3 Hispanic former students.
- The case of the police assault of Greg Baity, who is Black and homeless.

* SOUTH AFRICA
- June 16/Soweto Day Commemoration in collaboration with the Critical Black Issues Conference.
- Sanctions Sunday update.

NEWS NOTES

UNITED NATIONS - On May 5, the Rev. Alan Boesak and Bishop Desmond Tutu gave testimony before the UN and stressed the need for a total isolation of the apartheid regime through immediate and mandatory sanctions on South Africa. This occurred on the occasion of the 25th year celebration of the formation of the Special Committee against Apartheid. CDCAAR members in attendance were Janice Mwapaga, Arlena Adams and Vera Michelson.

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THE PATTERN OF POLICE INJUSTICE

Albany Mayor Thomas Whalen III must be the blindest person living in the Capital District. Anybody with eyes and a brain could see that there is a problem when Jesse Davis was shot by the police in 1984. Anybody with eyes and a brain could see that there is a problem when police officer, Valerie von Dollen-Burke is twice found guilty of violating the civil rights of Albany citizens, and the tax-paying citizens foot the bill for the damages brought against her and the police department.

Anybody with eyes and a brain could see that there is a problem when police officers, James Turley and Peter Krasher, were very recently found guilty of violating the civil rights of three Hispanic and one African-American former SUNY students. Incidentally, Mark Mishler, an executive member of the CDCAAR, was one of the two attorneys who represented the former students.

Yet, our distinguished mayor, Thomas M. Whalen III, says, "I think it's hard to pick a case that's six years old and say that it shows a pattern on the part of the police that demonstrates insensitivity. I don't see any patterns that would be disturbing to me or the leadership in the police department."

This, despite the fact that this is the second conviction of officer Peter Krasher. This, despite the fact that jury forewoman, Christine Tate, said that the jury decision was designed to 'send out signals' to the city. This, despite the recent abuse charges brought against the Albany police by Greg Baity, who, according to Ann Pope of the NAACP, was abused because he was a homeless black man. This case is now before the community/police relations board and is the first time that a complaint which is channeled through the community/police relations board, on which Vicki Smith represents the CDCAAR, will result in charges against one or more police officers.

The mayor does not see a problem. Maybe there is truth in the saying, "'There is none so blind as those who will not see."
FORUM AGAINST RACIST VIOLENCE

The forum against racial violence served to emphasise the dire need that exists in our communities to organise. The conditions have been created in this country for racism to continue to ferment under a veneer of bogus respect for human rights, human dignity and human freedom. This message was echoed by each of the speakers at the forum held at the Wilborne Temple on Saturday, 23 April. These speakers included Elombe Brath, Colin Moore, Roger Green, Zoilo Torres and Lillie Howard.

While civil rights Lawyer, Colin Moore, forcefully made the point that racism is part of the very fabric of this society, Lillie Howard was emphasising the need for the oppressed to correctly define the attacks on their lives and living standards.

Zoilo Torres, from the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, made a clear call for us to build and strengthen our organisations as a sharp tool in the struggle for human rights and justice.

SANCTIONS SUNDAY

On Sunday, 24 April, South African students from as far afield as Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York City, Poughkeepsie and Utica came together in Albany to assist the CDCAAR in its campaign, called Sanctions Sunday. This campaign was organised in collaboration with the Baptist Minister’s Convention and the International Minister’s Breakfast Fellowship.

On that day, one South African student and one Coalition member visited a total of 12 churches with just one message. The apartheid regime must be isolated completely. Total, comprehensive and mandatory sanctions is the strategy demanded by the South African liberation movement and the Front-line states and is the only moral choice for the USA.

An estimated 900 letters were written or signed and sent to Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, to voice our displeasure at his not yet having co-sponsored the Cranston-Dellums bill, calling for total sanctions.

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FORUM (continued)

In conclusion then, we salute all those who participated in making this forum the success that it was. A special nod is given to all the speakers, and to the CDCAAR committee on racist violence, headed by Vicki Smith, that organised the forum.

NEWS NOTES (continued)

A SALUTE - to Janice Mwapaga for playing such a key role in liaising with the churches, which contributed to making Sanctions Sunday such an important an effective campaign.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - Are you happy with the quality of education in public schools? Do you feel that the schools meet your children's needs? Do you know how the board of education meetings are run?

If your answer to any of those questions is NO! Come to the next Board meeting on Tuesday, June School 24. Demand the answers to your questions and express your opinion.

SAASM - An organisation of South African students, SAASM, has established a branch in Albany to organise South African students in the area and to give assistance to the anti-apartheid movement here.