BOYCOTT RAY CHARLES
JOIN THE PICKET

Friday, October 25, 1985 8:00 p.m.
Palace Theatre, Albany, N.Y.
Demonstration and Picket Line begin at 6:30

Why Boycott Ray Charles?

In October of 1980 Ray Charles performed in apartheid South Africa. Before he went to South Africa, Ray received several requests to reconsider "playing along" with the apartheid regime. Southern Africa liberation groups - the African National Congress (ANC) and the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) - and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) were among those asking Ray not to collaborate with the Afrikanners.

In addition to those requests, Ray was made aware of the United Nations boycott against cultural exchanges with the apartheid state and the international campaign to isolate the racists.

South Africa Tour Particularly Offensive

Ray's tour of South Africa was particularly offensive. One of his concerts was scheduled in Soweto on October 14th - a day reserved by Blacks for anti-apartheid protests in commemoration of the banning of 18 organizations and the jailing of over fifty leading activists on that date in 1977. The people organized a boycott of this performance. Only 30 people showed up and the concert was cancelled. Later concerts were cancelled as well and his entourage was stoned by Black protesters.

"Honorary White" !!!

In spite of many pressures, Ray refused to cancel out the gig and chose instead to accept the status of "honorary white" from the apartheid government so that he could perform in South Africa and have the privilege, denied to his Black brothers, to travel freely in that land.

Even while he was there conducting his concert tour of sixteen cities, Mfanafuthi Johnstone Mкатини, then the chief representative of the ANC to the U.N., issued a plea to Ray to "stop collaborating" and "stabling the aspirations of the people of South Africa in the back and come home." Ray ignored this plea and continued to let the "blood money roll."

What about "integrated" audiences?

Ray claimed he was playing before integrated audiences and offered that as a justification of his tour. First of all, integrated audiences are just a trick by the government to convince people there is reform - integrated audiences exist only by special permit by the government while life outside the concert hall is still totally controlled by rigid apartheid laws. Secondly, Blacks in South Africa don't care about integrated audiences - they care about political freedom and basic human dignity. Ray makes a mockery of the anti-apartheid struggle when he justifies his trip with the excuse of an integrated audience.

Sponsor: Partial District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Albany, N.Y. aside District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Albany, N.Y. for information: (518) 486-0562

Partial List of Endorsers: NAACP, Albany Branch, Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), Blacks in Government (BIG), Central America Solidarity Alliance (CAS/A), S.A.S.U.
RAY CHARLES HAS ISOLATED HIMSELF - ISOLATE HIM

Ray Charles has isolated himself from the hundreds of entertainers who have refused to be lured by blood money. He has isolated himself from others - the Temptations, Tina Turner, the Mighty Clouds of Joy, Chick Corea, Kenny Rogers, George Benson, the O.J.'s - who have entertained in South Africa and later have acknowledged their error and vowed never to return until there is Black majority rule.

We are asking Ray to openly acknowledge his error or performing for apartheid and promise not to return to South Africa until apartheid is ended. We are asking him to make a stand against the most racist society on earth. We are asking you to boycott his performance and join a demonstration against Ray Charles. This is what Black South Africans want. We support them. Join in this support.

Support the cultural boycott
Isolate apartheid South Africa
Boycott entertainers who violate United Nations ban

America
Bob Anderson
**Paul Anka
David Baca
Cliff Barnes
Shirley Bassey
**George Benson
**Brook Benton
C.L. Blast
Ernest Bourgnine
Beach Boys
Gwen Brisco
Shirley Brown
Nina Burrell
Glen Campbell
Colin Carr
Clarence Carter
Moody Channing
Ray Charles
Cher
Chicago
Jimmy Cliff
Billy Cobham
Pete & Conte Condoli
Alia Coolidge
**Chuck Cowan
**Andrew Crouch
Danibelle
Henry "Manolito" Darrow
"Devine"
Joe Dolan
**Lou Donaldson
Lamont Dozier
The Drifters
Jack Dupree
Ecstasy Passion & Pain
Carla Fontana
George Forest
Midel Fox
Don Francisco
Buddy de Franco
Aretha Franklin
Gloria Gaynor
Terry Gibbs
Nikki Giovanni
Glide" Breakdancer,
Members of the
Dynamic Rockers
Francis Grier
Jack Gregg
David Hasselhof
Richard Hatch
Goldie Hawn
Isaac Hayes
Joe Henderson
**Howard Hesseman
"Dr. Johnny Fever"
Richard Groove Holmes
Jimmy Bo Horne
Susan Howard
**Janis Ian
**Millie Jackson
Willis "Gator Tail"
Jackson
Elton John
Jack Jones
Tom Jones
Fern Kinney
Eartha Kitt
Louis Lane
Jamey Johnson
Liberace
Jerry Loren
Love Machine
Main Ingredient
Mancun Dancers
& Reborn
Barry Manilow
Ann Margaret
Barry Martin
Johnny Mathis
Mattison Brothers
**Curtis Mayfield
George McCrae
**Mighty Clouds of Joy
**Stephanie Mills
Lisa Minnelli
Ella Mitchell
**James Moody
Olivia Newton-John
Linda Olephant
Osmo
Charles Pace
Dolly Parton
Wilson Pickett
The Platters
Barbara Ray
Helen Reddy
Della Reese
Tim Reid "Venus Flytrap"
Linda Ronstadt
**Kenny Rogers
Richard Roundtree
Telly Savalas
Leo Sayer
Shirley Scott
Neil Sedaka
George Shearing
Sha Na Na
Frank Sinatra
Percy Sledge
Jimmy Smith
Diane Solomon
**The Staple Singers
Edwin Starr
Candi Staton
Dakota Staton
Rod Stewart
The Supremes

Brian Tarff
Buddy Tate
**The Temptations
John Thomas
Rufus Thomas
Timmy Thomas
Bross Townsend
**Tina Turner
**Stanley Turrentine
Two Tons of Fun
The Variations
Village People
Lovellace Watkins
Wavy Legs (From Glide)
Al Wilson
Jimmy Witherspoon
**Betty Wright
Robert Wright
The Younghearts
Pia Zadora
Mike Zwerin

This list is based on a list comprised by two New York City based organizations, the Patrice Lumumba Coalition and AJASS, based on research done by Michael C. Beaubien and the United Nations Centre Against Apartheid.

** VOWED NOT TO RETURN

FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES CALL:
(518) 436-0562
CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM, ALBANY, N.Y.
After months of unrest, President Botha made a speech in August which made clear that the fascist regime was not about to negotiate any real concessions to the Black majority. The Afrikaner siege mentality is obvious in governmental responses to increasing violence, a deepening recession and increasing international isolation. Over 600 people have been killed, a state of emergency has been called, funerals have been banned, leaders of the United Democratic Front (a multi-racial, non-violent, and broad-based coalition for change) have been arrested and charged with treason. The country becomes ungovernable.

LEADER OF CHURCH SEIZED BY POLICE NEAR CAPE TOWN

18 OTHERS ALSO ARRESTED

Boesak, Outspoken Critic of Apartheid, Is Detained for Defying Funeral Ban

8/11/85

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STATE EMERGENCY CALLED IN 36 CITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

FIRST SUCH STEP SINCE ‘60

Declaration Gives the Police Wide New Powers to Quell Unrest in Townships

South African Stock Slump

South African Rand Takes Dramatic Fall

APART HATE

South African Rand Takes Dramatic Fall

APART HATE

8/20/85

SOUTH AFRICA PUTS 16 BLACKS ON TRIAL IN A TREASON CASE

Hearing Is Biggest of Its Kind Since Nelson Mandela Got Life Term 21 Years Ago

Botha Rules Out Wide Concessions to Black Demands

8/16/85

TONE OF SPEECH IS TOUGH

Pretoria Leader Won't Change Status of Mandela or Bow to Outsiders' Demands

Botha's Message: South Africa Won't Budge

8/13/85

8/14/85

8/15/85

8/15/85

8/15/85

Tutu's son held

Molly Blackburn, a human rights activist, being escorted to court near Port Elizabeth after her arrest for attending illegal gathering in Zwele Town ship, a charge separate from the decree of emergency.
In the United States, apartheid is now front page news. Students, workers, government officials in cities, states and nationally, businessmen and bankers, church leaders and grass roots activists are joining together to aid the liberation movement in South Africa.

Forced by recent events in South Africa and the growing opposition movement in this country to "constructive engagement," the Reagan administration has put forth some pressure on the South African regime. However, Reagan continues to insist that sanctions will not bring about change. Reagan's friend, Jerry Falwell, proclaims that more U.S. businesses should invest in apartheid, krugerrand sales should be stepped up and Nobel Peace laureate Desmond Tutu is a phony! Reagan calls his new policy "active constructive engagement." This new policy makes the United States one of South Africa's best - and only - friends in the world community.

Reagan decides to stand by Botha Destructive engagement Apartheid's apostle

Apartheid 5,000 rally in capital against apartheid

KILLS

Over 6000 people marched behind this banner in Washington, D.C., Aug. 12

3/14/85

Jackson Condemns Falwell in a Debate about South Africa

8/1/85

5/4/85

In Congress, Pretoria's Stand Evokes Calls for Sanctions

New York Rally Assails South Africa

U.S. Companies Begin to Cut Some Links to South Africa

U.S. Banks Cut Loans Sharply to South Africans

N.Y. labor plans apartheid protest

Many voices, one message in New York City Aug. 13
Anti-apartheid coalition urges boycott of Ray Charles concert

The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism is calling for a boycott of the Ray Charles concert scheduled for Oct. 25 at the Palace Theater in Albany.

Merton Simpson, head of the coalition's cultural boycott committee, said Charles was being boycotted because of his 1980 trip to South Africa, despite several attempts by groups to inform him of that country's racist policies.

"It is unfortunate we have to demonstrate against Ray Charles but, while he is a genius at soul music, he is not too smart at political science or social science," Simpson said.

Charles was contacted before and during the trip by anti-apartheid groups and each time refused to cancel the tour. Simpson said Charles even went through with an Oct. 19 concert date in Soweto, the anniversary of the 1976 ban of 18 anti-apartheid organizations.

Because only 30 people showed up for the concert, it was canceled, Simpson said. Other concert dates were also canceled for lack of attendance, and Charles' group was stoned by black protestors at one point.

Protesters also appeared before Charles' performance at the Kool Jazz Festival in 1983 at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Ray Charles sold out to apartheid planned

See attached flyer for details - attend Oct. 9 Coalition meeting to help plan boycott and protest

Summer cultural boycott update: A victory

Chick Corea, target of protest

by Brad Turner

About 200 people of mixed race and age walked out on Chick Corea as he played before thousands at the Kool Jazz Festival in Saratoga on June 29. The protesters, organized by the Albany-based Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, voiced opposition to Corea's refusal to apologize for his 1982 performance in South Africa in violation of two U.N. General Assembly resolutions calling for a cultural and economic boycott of South Africa.

Wearing black armbands to signify solidarity with the victims of South Africa's racist regime, at a signal from the organizers, protesters rose from their seats in the amphitheater and on the lawn at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, marched around the lawn area in view of Corea as he performed, and rallied at a spot far from the main stage.

Sikhulu Shange of the African National Congress spoke to the assembled protestors saying, "You are helping us to continue our struggle against apartheid, and we will love you as much as we love ourselves for doing this."

The protesters chanted slogans in support of the African National Congress W.A.P.O., the South West African Independence Organization, before returning to the performance area.

About twenty-five people affiliated with the organizing coalition served as "directors," and were identified by their red armbands.

Corea has defended his trip to South Africa which included a recording session in Johannesburg saying, "My purpose in going there was to uplift the spirits of all those who heard my music." Unlike other performers, he has refused to promise not to return to South Africa while the present regime is in power. But Vera Michaelson, chairperson of the local Coalition Against Apartheid, counters that "those who perform in South Africa support the apartheid regime," particularly Michaelson voiced outrage against what she called Corea's "arrogance" and "misguided idealism," pointing out that the boycott was called for from inside South Africa by the African National Congress, a group representing those Blacks most directly affected by the apartheid regime.

The Coalition handed out a list of entertainers in violation of the U.N. ban on cultural involvement. The list includes Black entertainers such as Ray Charles, Isaac Hayes, Aretha Franklin and Della Reese. The list also includes the names of those entertainers who have publicly apologized for their performances including Paul Anka, George Benson, Tina Turner and The Temptations.

The Coalition was originally formed to demonstrate against the South African soccer team, the Springboks, when they played here in 1981. The 1980 U.N. resolution calling specifically on writers, artists and musicians to stay away from South Africa was supported by 123 nations, with 13 abstentions and 8 countries opposing The United States voted against the resolution.

Chick Corea, producer of Los Angeles, CA 90039

To: Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

From: Chick Corea

This is to reaffirm and state my position in regards to the apartheid system in South Africa.

1) I'm definitely against this system and would like to see it abolished.
2) I refuse to perform in any concert venue where there is any racial discrimination and therefore will not perform again in South Africa until the present apartheid system is abolished.
3) It should go on record that at the time I went to South Africa to perform, I was unaware of the existence of the United Nations' cultural boycott.

My wish is that we can bring the right pressures to bear resulting in the abolishment of the apartheid system; and see a return of human rights to the blacks in South Africa.

Chick Corea
Important Meeting Announcement:

The Freedom Charter

ABROAD AT HOME
Anthony Lewis
N.Y. Times

The Fire This Time

The sweeping powers of the police to arrest and detain anyone suspected of political unorthodoxy have been used to take in hundreds of leaders of the United Democratic Front, which advocates a non-racist South Africa. One of the prominent leaders of the movement against apartheid, Mathew Goniwe, was found dead, his body mutilated, in circumstances pointing to the police as the murderers.

The brutality has been matched by the cynicism of Pretoria’s rhetoric, offering excuses with no serious expectations of belief. It was all the fault of Communists, officials said when they imposed the state of emergency last week.

“It is essential,” President P.W. Botha said, “that the situation be normalized in such a way that the climate for continued dialogue in the interests of all people in the constitutional, economic and social fields is ensured.” That from a head of government who has had no “dialogue” whatever with meaningful representatives of 23 million black people.

No, the time has passed for these empty political phrases, for those Government promises of “reforms” that never touch the essentials of the apartheid system. This time must see a realistic hope of what blacks would call change: a chance to take part in the political life of their country.

For that there must be real talking — not a mythical dialogue, not a chat with blacks chosen by the white Government, but a negotiation between blacks and whites who matter. And that comes back to the crucial point of legitimacy.

Apartheid’s illegitimacy has caught up with it

South African blacks, as polls have repeatedly shown, overwhelmingly regard one man as their legitimate representative. That is Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress.

In their heart of hearts, the white politicians who have locked him up for 21 years know it must be Mr. Mandela. That is why they offered him a conditional release last February. That is why they let two of his visitors visit him recently, after decades of complete isolation.

But it can only be a Nelson Mandela free without conditions, negotiating as an equal. And that is hard for Mr. Botha to do, knowing its necessity though he may. For he worries about his white constituents, and to an amazing degree they live in their suburbs and think life can go on unchanged.

There the outside world can help. It can focus attention on the need to free Nelson Mandela, as the conservative British Government did last week, calling for his “unconditional release.” It can try to make South African whites feel in their pockets the revolution of others, as France did in stopping new investment and moving for a U.N. Security Council resolution.

And the Reagan Administration? It took six days to condemn the declaration of emergency. It insisted that it must not break with Pretoria; a White House official explained, “They listen to us. We have influence.” Influence for what?

Bishop Desmond Tutu was surely right to ask what President Reagan’s reaction would have been if the 500 people killed in South Africa had been white. “We will not forget,” he said, “where the American Administration stood at a time when we needed desperately.”

Desmond Tutu and many others in South Africa want to end their country’s chaos. They want order: the order of hope, not the order of the grave.

Labor donated.