

SAMPLE LETTERS

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
Dear President Reagan,

Members of the Lutheran churches in this country, representing more than five million people, have repeatedly declared their solidarity with the people of Namibia as they struggle to throw off South African oppression. For more than a hundred years the Namibian people have been denied freedom and self-determination, values which Americans hold dear.

We urge you, therefore, to do all you can to see that the United States strongly supports the U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 which calls for a cease fire in Namibia, and U.N. supervised fair and free elections!

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I am writing to call your attention to the tragic situation in Namibia/South West Africa, where the violence and oppression of the South African forces is felt daily by the black Namibian. For more than a hundred years, these courageous people have been denied freedom and independence.

I belong to the American Lutheran Church (2,300,000 members) which back in 1980, voted at its General Convention to:

"urge the President and Congress of these United States of America to cooperate with the U.N. in bringing pressure to bear on the Republic of South Africa, without further delay, for compliance with United Nations Resolution 435, including the application of whatever economic or other sanctions might be necessary...."

This stand was reaffirmed at our General Convention in 1984. We are increasingly disturbed that our country is seen as a supporter of South Africa in its continued occupation of Namibia.

In the months ahead, I urge you to keep this stand of the American Lutheran Church in mind as issues concerning Namibia and South Africa come before the Congress.

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Both the United Nations and the World Court have declared the occupation of Namibia by South Africa to be illegal. Nevertheless, South Africa defies world opinion by continuing to hold captive more than one million black Namibians and by exploiting the mineral rich resources of their country.

In spite of what South Africa claims, the situation in Namibia is getting worse instead of better. The enforcement of military conscription of all men up to the age of 55 is but one more example of the increased repression in Namibia.

I am enclosing a list of 28 persons, detained in the north of Namibia during the last few weeks. One of these has already been killed in detention. I request that you inquire of the South African Ambassador as to the safety and well being of the other persons on this list.

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forced military conscription means Namibians made to fight against their brothers-- apartheid system similar to Naziism--disturbed at our nation's military and nuclear collaboration--increased harassment of church officials--disturbed at attempts to avoid U.N. supervised elections by setting up "internal solution"--threat to increase control of curriculum in church supported schools--Namibia should not be a pawn in an East-West struggle.