It's a New Year!

Next General CD CAAR Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 1992 - 7 to 9 p.m.
Albany Public Library Main Branch
Washington Avenue, Albany, New York

Agenda: Mozambique Follow Up
National Conference in support of the African
National Congress and a Democratic South
Africa - 3/20-22/92 New York City
and more!

Our meetings are open to everyone who is
interested in working for an end to apartheid
in Southern Africa and for racial justice in the U.S.

Reminder: By now you should have received a
letter asking for your $5.00 yearly dues. It may
have gotten put aside or misplaced with the holiday
mail but it is not too late - if you haven't sent
$5.00 (or more!), please do so now. Your dues cover
the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter.
You will receive a new membership card and your
name will stay on our mailing list.
Congratulations to the Social Justice Center of Albany on their 10th Anniversary.

On November 24, 1991, the Social Justice Center of Albany held an anniversary dinner to celebrate their 10 years of work on behalf of the social justice community in the Capital District. Every year the Center gives its Peace and Justice Awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the movement for social change in the Capital District community. This year the awards were given to: Barbara Smith, Vickie Smith, Barbara Allen, Patricia Trowers-Johnson and Esther Rodriguez. Our congratulations to them and to the Center for their commitment to the struggle for justice.

Patricia Trowers-Johnson

Patricia Trowers-Johnson, presently a reporter for WTEN (Channel 10) in Albany, was nominated by the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (CDCAAR), a Social Justice Center member group, for her leadership in the fight against racism and for the empowerment of women and people of color in both her professional and activist roles. 

However, unlike many of her fellow journalists, Pat has not been satisfied to sit on the sidelines and report on community issues. Her activist politics are "a part of my makeup," Pat says simply. "You can't live in a community... without [seeking to] make it a better place."

Towards this end, Pat is an active member of the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism (CDCAAR), which she first got involved with shortly after her arrival in Albany and the group's founding. According to CDCAAR members, Pat was a "driving force" behind such activities as the group's January 20th, 1991 spirited rally against the appearance of the Ku Klux Klan, September 22nd, 1991 10th Anniversary Dinner, and 1990 reception for the ANC's appearance in the Capital District.

Pat applauds CDCAAR for going beyond its original emphasis on South Africa to address such domestic issues as police brutality. However, she argues that CDCAAR must continue to keep public attention on South Africa in the next few years. Even though "one or two pillars of apartheid" have been taken down and Nelson Mandela has been released, Pat says we must remind the public that the brutal apartheid system is still in place: "It's not over until it's over."
In May of 1991, the Center for Law and Justice, Inc. held its First Annual Criminal Justice Conference. A second annual conference is being planned for the Spring of 1991. The Center is hoping for an increase in community involvement and participation. If you can get involved in the planning of this year's conference, please call 427-8361.

by Alice P. Green, Center for Law and Justice, Inc.

In September, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services issued two reports dealing with the high number of Black and Latino persons in the State's prisons and jails. The Reports grew out of a concern that minorities represent 85% of those in prison while they make up less than 25% of the State's general population.

The first report entitled, "The Incarceration of Minority Defendants: An Identification of Disparity in New York State, 1985-1986," shows that Blacks and Latinos are more likely than whites to go to prison if convicted of similar crimes. The study found widely disparate sentencing differences across the state.

The second report addressed misdemeanor arrests only and showed the largest disparities involved sentencing decisions. For defendants arrested for the first time, Blacks and Latinos were sentenced to conditional or unconditional discharge more often than whites. But, whites were fined more often than these groups. Minority group members with prior arrest records were sentenced to jail more often than whites, who were again fined more often than Blacks or Latinos.

The Reports stopped short of blaming the disparity on racial discrimination. Reaction to the reports has been mixed. Some, such as Assemblyman Arthur Eve, believe that they confirm the existence of racism in criminal justice processing. Reportedly, Richard Girgenti, Director of Criminal Justice, and others believe that the reports fail to show the influence of racial prejudice. One major concern is that the researchers and criminal justice professionals demonstrate little understanding of racism and how it is manifested. There seems to be the assumption that factors such as prior criminal record, demeanor, and charge severity are objective factors, untainted by prejudice and racism.

It should also be understood that the studies are limited to processing following arrest and therefore do not address the major issue of selective enforcement and racial discrimination by police.
The United States, which has served as the patron of Zaire’s dictator Mobutu Sese Seko for more than 25 years, is still hesitating to support pro-democracy forces in that country. By refusing to demand unequivocally that Mobutu give up power, the U.S. is promoting violence and political stalemate, that could plunge Zaire into even deeper poverty and chaos.

It is urgent that the United States

- call unconditionally for Mobutu to abandon power and leave Zaire, and
- offer financial and other support to enable a democratically chosen government to alleviate the desperate economic situation left by Mobutu.

BACKGROUND

Mobutu Sese Seko, a military officer supported by the CIA in the first Congo crisis of the early 1960s, assumed power as President in a 1965 coup, and has ruled Zaire (then Congo) ever since. He is reputed to be one of the richest men in the world, but has bankrupted his country through corruption and mismanagement. He has succeeded in keeping power by repression and clever divide-and-rule tactics against opponents, and by maintaining support from a variety of Western powers, including Belgium, France and the United States.

His close ties with the United States have been reflected in the use of Zaire for intervention in Angola, first in the conflict around independence in 1975, and more recently in support of guerrilla operations by Jonas Savimbi’s UNITA.

In recent years domestic opposition has grown stronger, and even Zaire’s Western allies have become disillusioned with Mobutu’s regime. Criticism from Belgium has been particularly strong since the May 1990 massacre of as many as 150 students in Lubumbashi by Mobutu’s troops. France and the United States have been slower to respond, but even the International Monetary Fund and the United States cut off aid to Zaire earlier this year.

Opposition forces, most prominently the Sacred Union grouping most opposition parties, forced Mobutu to accept a national conference on democratization in August. But Mobutu packed the conference with his supporters and surrounded it with troops, thus blocking free deliberations.
In late September unpaid troops mutinied in Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire, Western countries began to evacuate their citizens, and Mobutu was eventually forced to accept a government headed by opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi as prime minister. But, with U.S. support, Mobutu retained control of the presidency and the defense ministry.

On October 18, only two days after Tshisekedi took office, he was dismissed by Mobutu, who said that Tshisekedi was illegal since he eliminated loyalty to Mobutu from the oath of office he took. Since then, demonstrators and soldiers have repeatedly clashed in Kinshasa and other places in Zaire.

Prime Minister Tshisekedi and the Zairian opposition in general called upon the United States to put pressure on Mobutu to leave. But the State Department refused, arguing instead for a new compromise prime minister to be chosen. At the end of November Mobutu appointed his former foreign minister and occasional opponent Ngoua Karl-I-Bond as prime minister. Karl-I-Bond, who headed a cabinet largely of Mobutu loyalists, Karl-I-Bond was denounced by the opposition as totally unacceptable.

The United States and other Western countries have evacuated most of their nationals, and do not seem inclined to active intervention in favor of Mobutu again. Belgium and most French officials have urged Mobutu to go. In the U.S. House and in the Senate, there is strong bipartisan sentiment that it is finally time to abandon this dictator.

The Bush administration, however, insists that Mobutu must still play a role. Both the Zairean opposition and independent observers predict this can only produce continuing chaos and violence in Zaire. As long as Mobutu is there, it is unlikely that anyone can bring the armed forces under control and begin to rebuild the country.

Zaire may no longer have the strategic significance it had in the Cold War period. But it is home for almost 35 million people, more than in any other country south of the equator except South Africa. Zaire’s people have suffered bitterly from Western support of Mobutu. They deserve a new chance, not just abandonment to the mercies of a dictator fighting to survive.

(Distributed by The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism, Box 3002 Pine Hills Station, Albany, New York 12203)

**What can you do?**

U.S. support for Mobutu is shakier than ever before, and even small amounts of public pressure could make a difference.

**Write or call:**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herman Cohen</td>
<td>202-667-4440</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Washington, DC 20520</td>
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<tr>
<td>President George Bush</td>
<td>202-456-1111</td>
<td>The White House Washington, DC 20500</td>
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<td>Brent Skowcroft</td>
<td>202-395-3000</td>
<td>National Security Council Washington, DC 20500</td>
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Mozambique: On the front line in the struggle against apartheid

On November 1, 1991, CD-CAAR held an evening educational event on Mozambique. We were honored to welcome the Honorable Hipolito Patricio, Ambassador to the U.S. from Mozambique and Prexy Nesbitt, Senior Consultant to the Mozambique government.

Mozambique which gained independence in 1975 after more than 400 years of Portuguese colonial domination, has been ravaged over the past 16 years by the South African backed terrorism of Renamo. Renamo forces have targeted civilians, schools, hospitals, ports, bridges, railroads, rural infrastructure, agriculture and food convoys, with the objective of destabilizing economic and social development in Mozambique. The Ambassador told of the struggle of the Mozambican people to overcome the horrors of war. Prexy explained that people in the U.S. must pressure our government to aid Mozambique and to stop U.S. interests from funding the Renamo terrorists.

The event was held at the Union Missionary Baptist Church in Albany. Our sincere thanks to Rev. Louis Brewer and his congregation. Deborah Maxwell, Steering Committee member coordinated the event. The Committee for the event was made up of the follow-ing: Iris Berger, Bonnie Bowell, Gail Byrnes, Celia Bess Cotton, Ann Frazier, Renee Hariton, Shirley Jones, Anju Kapur, Eileen Kawola, Sandra Lamm, Mabel Leon, Dick Melita, Vera Michelson, Mark Mishler, Marc Morris, Nl Narty, Tina Oyarekhua, Mike Riddick, Mona Riddick, Phekeane Ramarumo, Sybil Sackey, Michele Slater, Nyam Smith, Anita Thayer, Gerry Zahlavi, Serou Zvoma.

On November 2nd, a follow-up discussion evening was held with Prexy and Paula Bower of Educators Against Apartheid and Racism. (Educators Against Apartheid and Racism is dedicated to education and action to combat racism in the U.S. and end apartheid in South Africa. They offer a curriculum guide, Apartheid is Wrong and are currently working on Activity Guide for Combating Racism: For Interested People of All Ages. For more information write: EARA, 164-04 Goethals Avenue, Jamaica, N.Y. 11432.)
Thank you... Putting out this newsletter each month is a big task that is done with the invaluable help of many people. It involves getting the copy to and from the printer, collating, folding, stapling, putting on labels, and delivering to the post office. There is also the job of keeping the mailing list up to date and printing labels. A very sincere thank you to the people who do this work: Michael Dollard, Joyce Rose, Martin Manley, Sandy Gerrish, Terri Roben, Peter Looker, Liza Schofield, Kate Schofield and Alice Brody.

In our tenth anniversary program, we listed the names of those who had supported us as sponsors. We inadvertently left off the name of one of our long time supporters, Irene Carr. Apologies and thanks!

The People's Music Network
The People's Music Network's Winter Gathering will be in Albany the weekend of January 24-26, 1992. PMN is a network of musicians, music lovers and activists interested in using music and culture to promote progressive ideas and committed to presenting the diversity of our communities through music. The gathering will begin with a multicultural concert on Jan. 24 which will include Pete Seeger and various other performers of different styles including Latin and African. For information on this concert or on the weekend, please call Sonny - 827-7561, Ruth - 432-7562 or Melanie - 482-1847.
Important Membership Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 1991
7-9 p.m. Albany Public Library

Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we begin a new year, these words of Dr. King should inspire us to continue our revolutionary values: "I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing oriented" society to a "person oriented" society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."