Inside this newsletter you will find an article about the continuing violence in South Africa and about a campaign by the Africa Fund (American Committee on Africa) about ways to work to help bring the violence to an end.

Also note that the Africa Office of the National Council of Churches convened a Consultation, "South Africa: What does Justice Require?" in October 1991. The statement from that Consultation, Call to Action, is a challenge for all to continue working towards the eradication of apartheid. Copies of the Call are available by calling the NCC Africa Office at (212) 870-2645.

The call to a National Conference in support of the African National Congress and a Democratic South Africa scheduled for March 20-22, 1992, in New York City has been postponed. More details in the March newsletter.
"Separate and Unequal
Racial Bias in Policing and the Courts"

The second annual Capital District Community Conference on Crime and Criminal Justice presented by The Center for Law and Justice, Inc.

Saturday, April 11, 1991
Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, N.Y.

* There will be two sessions with each session having a keynote speaker, a response panel, and a community meeting to decide on an action agenda.

* The morning session keynote speech will be given by Mr. Don Jackson who came to the national spotlight in 1989 while investigating police abuse and violence. His arrest and beating were videotaped and shown to the world. With over 10 years of diverse law enforcement experience, Mr. Jackson writes, lectures, studies public administration and participates in community activities.

* The afternoon keynote speech will be given by Judge Nicholas Figueroa, Vice Chair, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities. A Justice of the Supreme Court in the First Judicial District, Judge Figueroa is President of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, a member of Mayor Dinkins' Committee on the Judiciary, and Chair of Bronx Legal Services.

(The Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism is one of almost forty groups to sponsor this conference. We are urging you to register early and have included a registration form in this newsletter. Feel free to copy the form and pass it on.)
"Separate and Unequal
Racial Bias in Policing and the Courts"
The second annual Capital District Community Conference on Crime and Criminal Justice presented by The Center for Law and Justice, Inc.
Saturday, April 11, 1991
Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, N.Y.

NAME ________________________________

ADDRESS ________________________________

Street       City       State

ZIP: ________ ORGANIZATION ________________________________

(There is no charge for this conference. However a donation of $5.00 would be appreciated. All donations are tax deductible.)

Return the form to: Center for Law and Justice, Inc.
Pine West Plaza, Building 2
Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, New York 12205

There are many ways you can show your commitment to working against racial biases in the criminal justice system.
The conference on April 11 is one way. We are also urging you to:

Bring the Brother Home"
Included in this newsletter, you will find an article about Eddie Ellis and the campaign to bring him home. Please read this article carefully and take action!
BACKGROUND AND PRISON ACTIVITIES

Eddie Ellis has been in prison for 23 years. During the 1960s he was a social activist, community organizer and writer. He was affiliated with the Black Panther Party, associated with members of Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM) and was national editor of Liberator Magazine. In 1967, because of his associations, writings and political beliefs, he was placed on the FBI Security Index List, under its counter-intelligence program (COINTELPRO) he was identified for "emergency detention" in the event of urban uprisings in New York City. Eddie became the subject of physical and electronic surveillance by the FBI and New York City Police Department. Both the Panther Party and RAM were designated "threats to U.S. national security" and were targeted for destruction under COINTELPRO.

An FBI, Domestic Intelligence Division, internal memo, dated 1/17/67 describes Eddie as follows:

"Subject to currently Community Relations Director of Black Panther Party (BPP), is closely aligned with the activities of RAM members, and is himself extremely militant. In his present position of leadership in the BPP he is in a position to influence people and can be expected to take advantage of a situation to commit acts inimical to the best interest of the United States."

Subsequently, in 1969, Eddie was arrested and convicted of killing a man he did not know and who did not know him. No physical evidence was ever presented to link him to the crime. No plausible motive for the killing was ever offered and his conviction rested essentially on the testimony of two New York City police officers. Inconsistencies in their testimony and the discovery of other favorable evidence since the trial have not sufficed to reverse the conviction. He was sentenced to the maximum term of 25 years to life imprisonment. All appeals, applications for sentence reduction and requests for executive clemency have been denied.

While in prison, Eddie has acquired an associates degree from the State University of New York with a 3.8 grade average. In 1981, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, magna cum laude, from Marist College. During the spring of 1989 Eddie received a Masters of Professional Studies from New York Theological Seminary and was given the honor of Class Speaker at their graduation ceremony. He was president of the student government of Marist College, editor of the student newsletter, and a tutor and peer counselor for Marist College. In 1983 he completed a certificate program in computer data and word processing from Dutchess Community College, received training as a para-legal researcher, and was certified by the Chief Counsel for the Department of Corrections. Eddie is presently working on his second associates degree in para-legal studies from Sullivan Community College.

Continuing his activism in prison, he has worked, over the years, with Vanguard Urban Improvement Association, the Black and Hispanic Legislative Caucus, Citizens for a Safer Harlem, East Elmhurst Community Corporation and New York Career Guidance Services, Inc. in the development of new program approaches to criminal and social justice issues. Working through the Black Solidarity Committee at Greenhaven Prison, Eddie designed a crime prevention program sponsored by the National Urban League, presently being tested in 15 cities and has created numerous other project proposals for the Ford Foundation, Department of Labor and the Institute for Criminal Justice Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Law and Justice in Albany, New York, and is a consultant for The National Trust for the Development of African Americans in Washington, D.C. He has held membership in the prison chapters of the NAACP, Jaycees.
EDDIE ELLIS (Background continued)

and the Greenhaven Legislature Committee, where he helped draft the Earned Incentive Allowance — "good time" proposal recently introduced in the New York State Legislature. He is a founding member of the Organization of Caribbean African Unity (CAU), where he developed the curriculum for and became the instructor of, the Caribbean History and Culture Class. He has completed the Stress Management Program given by the prison psychologist, the basic and advanced Compadre Helper Program, sponsored by the State University (SUNY)Albany and workshop training on Non-Violent Group Process and Conflict Resolution, given by the Quaker Religious Society of Friends. He has been the chairman of the prisoner's Grievance Committee and was elected by the prison population to serve on the Liaison Committee, which meets with local and state prison administrators for the resolution of systemic problems. Finally, Eddie is the creator of The Resurrection Studies Group, a youth training program designed to address the problems of "endangered Black males". This program has been initiated in three New York State prisons and is now seeking approval for further expansion in New York City jails, as well as, out of state prisons and in the Harlem community.

In recognition of his community activities and achievements in prison, Eddie Ellis has been supported in his efforts for sentence reduction and executive clemency by such people as Congressman Charles Rangel, State Assemblymen Al Vann, Roger Green and Arthur O. Eve, former City Councilman Fred Samuels, Rev. Wyatt T. Walker, Basil Paterson, and the Superintendent of Woodbourne Prison, Carl D. Berry.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

In April 1992 Eddie will be eligible for a work release program which will allow him to be moved to a minimum security prison in New York City, work at a regular job during the day and return in the evenings to the prison. He would be permitted to spend weekends and holidays at home with his wife and family. In order to accomplish this we must demonstrate to the Officials of the Department of Correctional Services in Albany, that the community fully supports Eddie being placed in such a program. Our political, religious, educational and elected leaders, as well as community activists and the friends and family of Eddie Ellis must send a powerful message to Albany, to "Bring the Brother Home". Letters, telegrams and phone calls of support should be sent to:

Mr. Thomas Coughlin III
Commissioner
Department of Correctional Services
State Office Building, Campus No. 2
Albany, New York 12226
(518) 457-8126

Eddie has taken advantage of every academic and educational program available. He has maintained an outstanding disciplinary record and has served as teacher, counselor, legal advisor, and role model for youth in prisons. He has paid a heavy price for his political beliefs yet continues to live by them and teacher others. Further incarceration would serve absolutely no useful purpose. Eddie is not a threat or danger to the community, he has no past or prior criminal record and his release at this time would not be incompatible with the safety or welfare of society. Help "Bring the Brother Home." ACT NOW!!!!

For further information you may contact:

BRUCE ELLIS, 700 Columbus Avenue, #12D, New York, New York 10025
(212) 877-9810 (between 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.) or (212) 662-1182 after 7:00 P.M.
Public inquiry opens on South Africa's rumored 'Third Force'

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — An unprecedented public inquiry began Wednesday into allegations that a sinister "Third Force" within the South African security forces is behind much of the violence that has torn the country's black townships apart.

The first witness, Mbongeni Khumalo, a former official in the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, testified before the Goldstone Commission that he had worked with the South African Defense Forces to recruit and train hit squads to kill members of the African National Congress.

Khumalo's allegations already have been published by the newspaper The Weekly Mail and, if proved, could have damaging implications for negotiations between the ANC and the government on black enfranchisement.

The Goldstone Commission enjoys wide powers of subpoena, is supported by both the ANC and the government, and Goldstone is regarded as impartial and honest. Its chances of getting to the bottom of the violence are considered greater than those of previous investigations ordered by the government that had limited powers.

Most South Africans appear convinced there is indeed a Third Force. There are unsubstantiated rumors of white faces spotted behind the balaclavas of gunmen, and surges of violence coincide with key events in the negotiating process.

The government denies any Third Force exists.

Last summer De Klerk was forced to admit his government had secretly funded the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, whose war with the rival ANC is responsible for much of the violence. But De Klerk insisted the funding had stopped after the government freed ANC leader Nelson Mandela and opened negotiations with the ANC in 1990.

Nonetheless, the killings have continued, and so have the rumors of government involvement.

Quoting a disgruntled former intelligence official, The Weekly Mail has named eight front companies that it claims the government set up to recruit and train blacks opposed to the ANC.

The newspaper says it has identified 200 Zulus who received training in the arts of assassination at a secret military camp in 1986.

The five-man commission, which includes two black jurists, was formed as an independent body last July to investigate the causes of violence that has claimed some 10,000 black lives since the mid-1980s. But Justice Richard Goldstone, the commission's chairman, decided last month that The Weekly Mail's allegations warranted a separate inquiry.

Moving toward a New South Africa... cautiously

In December, 1991 the opening phase of official negotiations on South Africa's future began - the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), with the next meeting scheduled for March. The years of struggle by our brothers and sisters in South Africa are paying off. However, one of the most serious obstacles still to be faced is the presence of right wing forces committed to maintaining apartheid at all costs. The above article and the "Stop the Violence" campaign (detailed in this newsletter) provide helpful background.
QUESTION 1: How many people have died so far as a result of the political violence in South Africa?

ANSWER: More than 11,000 people have been killed as a result of the violence in South Africa since 1984, over half this number since Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990.

QUESTION 2: Who is responsible for the violence?

ANSWER: The regime of F.W. De Klerk is responsible for much of the violence. In the two years since Nelson Mandela walked out of prison the security forces have directly killed at least 421 people and injured over 4,000, according to statistics from the Human Rights Commission. Hit squads have killed many more. In January 1992, the Johannesburg Weekly Mail produced army documents detailing the military's efforts to establish, finance and run covert hit squads that targeted local leaders and organizations sympathetic to the ANC. One report to the army General Staff set out how "cultural organizations" were used to "create conflict" between the ANC and other black groups. According to the Human Rights Commission, black vigilante gangs have accounted for an estimated 5,471 deaths since the middle of 1990. The Commission reports 53 assassinations of political organizers in 1991. The government has never fully investigated the hit squads and the department that ran these hit squads was still listed as receiving funds in the 1991 budget document.

QUESTION 3: Isn't it true that Blacks are killing Blacks?

ANSWER: For over 40 years the policy of apartheid has been to do everything to keep Black South Africans firmly oppressed. This has included assault, torture, and murder. The minority government has also worked to incite blacks to fight each other. It created and continues to finance ten tribally based homelands, including the KwaZulu homeland operated by Gatsha Buthelezi. Buthelezi formed Inkatha, a movement he uses to run the KwaZulu homeland for the Pretoria regime. Inkatha and Pretoria's police are responsible for more deaths than anyone else. Because Inkatha is an organization of Black South Africans, the killings are dismissed as incidents of "Black on Black violence", but Inkatha in fact is a tool of the Government.
QUESTION 4: Who are the victims of this apartheid violence?

ANSWER: The image of mindless wholesale tribal violence is a lie. The violence is very systematic. The minority regime has targeted people on the cutting edge of the freedom struggle: labor, church, and civic leaders. There are also military style massacres of innocent people but there is a consistent pattern of core activists being killed. Many of them were involved in township level negotiations to try and stop the violence.

QUESTION 5: How is the U.S. government involved in this violence?

ANSWER: The Bush Administration has sent Inkatha more than two million U.S. dollars. We must stop George Bush from using our tax dollars to fund Inkatha killers.

What can I as an individual do to help stop the political violence in South Africa?

First, demand that Pretoria end the violence by flooding the apartheid ambassador in Washington with calls, faxes and letters.

Ambassador Harry Schwarz
Embassy of South Africa
3051 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20008 Tel. (202) 232-4400

Second, Write and demand the U.S. stop the funding of Inkatha killers.

President George Bush
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Third, during the week of March 28 to April 4, hold a candlelight vigil at your church, school, or a Federal Building, S.A. Consulate, and strike a light for peaceful change in South Africa.

January, 1992
A project of the Social Justice Center

Capital District Coalition
Against Apartheid and Racism
Thursday, February 27, 1992
7:00 p.m.
Albany Public Library
Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y.
presents

"Report from South Africa"

A slide show and talk by
Virgil Hodges, a member of Mayor David Dinkins' delegation to South Africa. He will report on "what's happening now" - the political, social and economic conditions in South Africa.

Virgil Hodges, appointed Executive Director of both the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence and the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission in September, 1991, is also a member of the Board of Advisors of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. He is a Life Member of the NAACP and a charter member of the Board of Directors of the Labor Branch, NAACP.

Everyone who is interested in an update about the anti-apartheid struggle which is continuing in South Africa will find this an interesting and informative event.

(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 438-0309)
What's happening?

The Social Justice Center of Albany is sponsoring its annual "Bowl for Peace" on Saturday, March 7, 1992. CD-CAAR, one of 18 peace and justice groups belonging to the Center is forming a team. Members are expected to get pledges before the Bowl-a-thon. This is fun event where real bowlers and people who haven't bowled in years or have never bowled get together to have fun and raise much need bucks for the SJC. Celia Bess Cotton, CD-CAAR's representative to the SJC's Coordinating Committee is organizing our team. If you can bowl, or form a team for CD-CAAR, (we can have more than one team), call Celia Bess at 436-9234.

Prexy's coming back! In November of 1991, CD-CAAR sponsored a weekend of informational events around Mozambique and Southern Africa. Prexy Nesbitt, Senior Consultant to the Mozambique, came to Albany for the event. All who heard Prexy speak at that time wished he could be here more often - to educate and energize us. Well, we're in luck! Prexy's coming to speak at RPI on Feb. 29th (the night after our monthly meeting). For more details, call 436-0562. (Hopefully, he'll be in town in time to attend our meeting on Thursday night too.)

New Urban League President Named...On February 2, 1992, Ms. Jamie Denard began her new position as President, CEO of the Albany Urban League. Ms. Denard, who replaces former Director Joseph Griggs, has been on staff of the Urban League for two and a half years, most recently as Vice President.

Jamie says she is "looking forward to the challenge and responsibility of her new position." CD-CAAR congratulates Jamie Denard on her new role and we look forward to working with her in the future.
What's happening in South Africa now?
Come to the February meeting of CD-CARR and find out.
Thursday, February 27, 1992, 7-9 p.m. (details inside)

Now is the time!
If you send your membership dues now - you will continue on our
caniling list, receive a much coveted membership card and, most
importantly, you will be materially aiding the struggle against
apartheid and racism. (To the many who have already sent their
dues, many thanks!)

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CD-CARR
ENCLOSED IS $_______ (Dues are $5.00 - more is better!)

NAME_____________________________________

STREET_____________________________________  

CITY__________________________ STATE_________ ZIP_____

Mail to CD-CAR, Box 3002, Pine Hills Station, Albany, New York 12203.