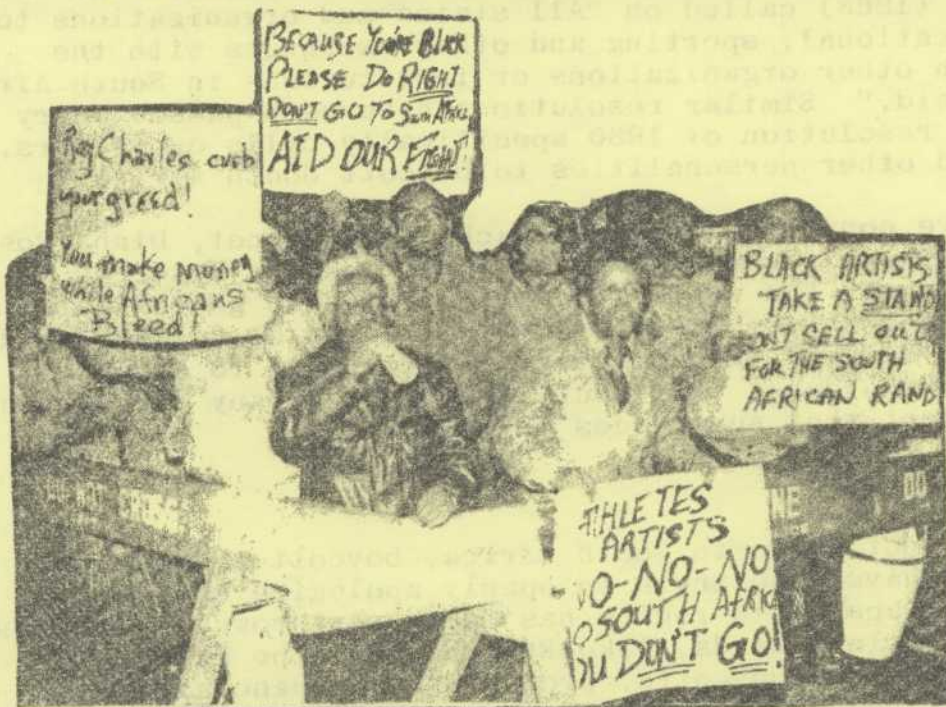


# PROTEST AGAINST ARTISTIC COLLABORATION WITH RACIST SOUTH AFRICA!



Over 200 angry demonstrators turned out in front of the Beacon Theater in New York to protest a recent Ray Charles concert.

WE PROTEST

RAY CHARLES'

VISIT TO

SOUTH AFRICA!

In October of 1980 Ray Charles was stoned by black political protesters in South Africa. Recently he was picketed at performances in New York City. He is scheduled to appear at the Kool Jazz Festival here today. A "walk-back" protest of his portion of the program has been organized. What has this brilliant artist done to attract such attention?

In the fall of 1980 Ray Charles was requested by representatives of the oppressed African masses of South Africa not to make a scheduled concert tour of the racist republic because of a cultural boycott that all artists were asked to respect. Since the Soweto uprising in June of 1976 the apartheid regime has been on a campaign of repression against black activists in South Africa, killing and jailing hundreds while seeking to present an image of progressive reform to those outside the country.

**RAY CHARLES SHOULD HAVE JOINED OTHER ENTERTAINERS IN THE CULTURAL BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA!**

Ray Charles, who had suffered in his own youthful years in the U.S. and had struggled to survive and become a world-reknowned genius at singing "the Blues", was expected to be compassionate to the plight of his South African brothers and sisters in a society where black people are "born to lose."

In an appeal to foreign artists, the Azanian Peoples Organization (of South Africa) asked for "total support and commitment in our move to have South Africa completely isolated in sports, culture and foreign investments...in order to pressure the racist minority regime into implementing fundamental change inside the country."

"Artists who come to South Africa are insensitive to our feelings and are imbued with capitalistic greed," AZAPO continued. "Granted, many of them are talented and are regarded as heroes by our people, but must they stoop so low by siding with the enemies of humanity?"

Ray Charles tour of South Africa was particularly offensive. Even before he left the U.S., AZAPO tried to persuade Charles not to go. Once he arrived in South Africa, Charles was contacted and urged to cancel his tour. He refused. Even worse, he scheduled a concert in Soweto on October 19th, a day reserved by blacks for anti-apartheid protests. AZAPO and other organizations responded by organizing a boycott of his performance and tour. Only 30 people showed up at the concert and it was cancelled. Later concerts were cancelled as well and his entourage was stoned by black protesters.



## THE UNITED NATIONS CALLS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT!

The International Cultural Boycott of South Africa, called for by the United Nations General Assembly, is part of the U.N.'s campaign to impose comprehensive sanctions on the South African apartheid system. The original U.N. resolution (1968) called on "All states and organizations to suspend cultural, educational, sporting and other exchanges with the racist regime and with other organizations or institutions in South Africa which practice apartheid." Similar resolutions have been passed every year since then. The resolution of 1980 specifically calls on writers, artists, musicians and other personalities to boycott South Africa.

Ray Charles should have consulted Roberta Flack, Tony Bennet, Diana Ross, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Jacksons, Phyllis Hyman or hundreds of other artists from all over the world who have refused to go to South Africa despite the fact that they were offered millions of dollars to do so. Roberta Flack was offered \$2.5 million! In response to an offer, Phyllis Hyman said, "I could not tour South Africa under any circumstance I have a moral commitment that supercedes money."

### WHAT SHOULD RAY CHARLES DO NOW?

Besides asking artists not to go to South Africa, boycott organizers have asked artists who have gone there to openly apologize and pledge not to return until the apartheid regime has been overthrown. Those who refuse to meet these simple demands, like Ray Charles, the Beach Boys, Linda Ronstadt, face pickets, boycotts, protests and financial losses. It is against this background that Ray Charles' visit to Saratoga takes place today.

We are asking that artists, musicians and entertainers say NO to blood money, that they take a stand against performing in the most racist society on earth. This is what black South Africans want. We support them.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

#### WE ARE ASKING YOU TO:

**WEAR A BLACK ARMBAND.** Wear a black armband in solidarity with the victims of apartheid in South Africa.

**WALK-BACK DURING RAY CHARLES' PERFORMANCE.** Look for the signal. Join us in an orderly walk-back out of the seat and lawn area. Walk to the gazebo (second stage) area. Stay out during Charles' part of the program. Return after his performance is finished.

**TURN YOUR BACK ON RAY CHARLES. WATCH FOR THE SIGNAL. WALK-BACK WITH U**

Further logistical information is available from anti-apartheid organizers here at the Jazz Festival. For more information about the sponsor call 489-1767.

**SPONSOR:** CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID AND RACISM

**ENDORSERS:** ALBANY BRANCH NAACP, SASU, BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL BLACK INDEPENDENT POLITICAL PARTY, ALBANY BRANCH, AMERICAN-SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM.