

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Earlier this week, the S. African government declared a state of emergency and began arresting anti-apartheid leaders, continuing a pattern of repression that has prevailed for over five decades. Two days ago, the government police sealed off Soweto from the outside world. Soweto is a black residential area outside Johannesburg. On June 16, 1976, a decade ago, police opened fire on 5,000 unarmed school children who were protesting a government order that Black schools use the Afrikaans language as the medium of instruction. Afrikaans is the language used by the country's ruling White minority. The spiral of violence has continued to this day.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Congress to vote on Economic Sanctions on Tuesday: Call Congressmen Heftel and Akaka and urge them to support H.R. 4868 and any strengthening amendments to enact strong economic sanctions against South Africa. The vote is set for Tuesday, June 17, so please call them on Monday, the 16th. Heftel: 546-8997; Akaka: 546-8952. Please call now! Mahalo.

2. UH President needs to be persuaded that shooting children and torturing prisoners cannot be condoned: Last week, President Simone chose to ignore the recent Amnesty International report documenting widespread human rights violations in S. Africa including routine torture of political prisoners (the arrest rate has been in excess of 100,000 per year!) and other brutalities. Divestment is a prudent action not only because it signals Hawaii's abhorance of human rights violations. It also protects UH investment funds from potential losses. It is obviously not safe to invest funds in politically unstable areas. Call Simone (948-8207) and urge him to listen to the ASUH, UPGA, OHA and Hawaii Council of Churches request for divestment. Mahalo!

SOWETO

HOW 1976 PROTESTS FUELED TODAY'S VIOLENCE

The last 21 months of turmoil in South Africa were prompted in large part by anti-apartheid protests 10 years ago. Here are some questions:

What happened in Soweto on June 16, 1976?

Police fired on 5,000 marching unarmed schoolchildren, killing and wounding 14 in the huge black residential area called Soweto outside Johannesburg.

Why were they marching?

To protest a government order that schools conduct lessons in Afrikaans, the Dutch and German-derived language of the country's ruling white minority.

Why was that important?

The students considered Afrikaans, which is not their native tongue, the language of their oppressors.

Did the Soweto protest spread?

Yes. The incident caused riots throughout the country that ended in 1977 after 575 people died.

Was there trouble before Soweto?

In 1960, at Sharpeville south of Johannesburg, unarmed blacks protested pass laws requiring them to carry identity cards. Police shot 69 people.

What did the government do after Soweto?

It outlawed many black organizations and jailed black leaders. It continued its policy of removing blacks to the so-called black "homelands" it had established.

How does the South African government justify its hard-line policies?

It says it must maintain law and order.

Did the crackdown fuel black resistance?

Yes, more blacks were radicalized and the African National Party emerged as the strongest force opposing the minority white government.

How does the black-against-black violence in Crossroads, a black squatter settlement outside Cape Town, fit in with this resistance?

Radical blacks are fighting more conservative blacks for control of the area. Conservative blacks are said to be supported by the government, which wants to undermine black resistance.

1,600 killed since '84

More than 1,600 blacks have died in anti-apartheid violence since September 1984. Among the incidents:

Sept. 3-7, 1984: 31 killed, most shot by police, in the Vaal Triangle — Sharpeville, Evaton and Sebokent — south of Johannesburg.

Nov. 4-5, 1984: 10 killed by police in East Rand, east of Johannesburg.

February 1985: 19 killed by police in Crossroads, Cape Town.

August 1985: 70 killed in tribal faction fighting south of Durban and in Natal.

August and October 1985: 28 and 37 killed, most by police, on Cape peninsula.

Feb. 15-22, 1986: 19 killed, most by police, in Alexandra and Johannesburg.

May 1986: 44 killed in fighting in Crossroads, Cape Town.

June 1986: At least 20 killed in factional fighting in Crossroads, Cape Town.

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