SOUTH AFRICA BELONGS TO US
MANY WHITE PEOPLE LIVE IN CITIES LIKE JOHANNESBURG AND CAPE TOWN, WHILE APARTHEID LAWS HAVE FORCED BLACK PEOPLE INTO THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

RESERVES
BANTUSTANS
HOMELANDS
(TRANSKEI & LEBOWA)

These areas of land, staked out by the government under the apartheid system, are supposed to become "national homelands." Scattered and resource poor, they cannot support the people who live on them. Often hundreds of miles from the cities, they are inhabited mainly by women and children, the unemployed and elderly.

TOWNSHIPS
GHETTOS
(AXELANDRA & SOWETO)

These areas, located outside the white cities have been designated by the South African government for blacks. It is against apartheid law for most blacks to live in the cities where they work. The ghetto-like conditions contrast sharply with the wealth of the cities.

SQUATTER CAMPS
SHANTYTOWNS
(CROSSROADS)

These unofficial areas are created by women and children from the homelands who cannot legally live with their husbands in the white cities. These women are always under threat of being forcibly removed to the "homelands" by the government.

HOSTELS

These prison-like structures are built by the South African government to house black workers near their work places — mining sites, other industries or "white" cities. Men and women are confined to separate hostels.
South Africa Belongs To Us offers a personal perspective on Apartheid, or separate development, a system based on legalized discrimination and separation of the races.

In the film several women speak candidly of their lives under the oppressive system of Apartheid. Black women in South Africa suffer daily from racial and sexual discrimination, harassment, torture, banning, imprisonment, poverty and constant insecurity. You will see how their experience of oppression has led them to mobilize and unify to change the conditions in their lives.

Some facts that may interest you and that will help set a context for these personalized stories follow.

Under the system of Apartheid, South Africa has been divided into a “white” area (87% of the land) and black reserves or “homelands” (13% of the land). Thus, 70% of the country’s population is forced to live segregated on these reserves, in townships, squatter camps or prison-like hostels within the “white” cities.
WE, THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, DECLARE FOR ALL OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD TO KNOW:

THAT SOUTH AFRICA BELONGS TO ALL WHO LIVE IN IT, BLACK AND WHITE, AND THAT NO GOVERNMENT CAN JUSTLY CLAIM AUTHORITY UNLESS IT IS BASED ON THE WILL OF ALL THE PEOPLE; THAT OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ROBBED OF THEIR BIRTHRIGHT TO LAND, LIBERTY AND PEACE BY A FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOUNDED ON INJUSTICE AND INEQUALITY...