



NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA SUPPORT PROJECT

STRUGGLE !

No. 1, 1987

ORGANIZING FOR ACTION: THE CHURCH

THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND SOUTHERN AFRICA WORK

Churches in the United States have been important in many social movements. Churches have been active in anti-slavery abolitionist efforts, the civil rights struggles of the 1960's, and the present-day sanctuary movement which aids Central Americans fleeing political oppression in their home countries.

While some churches have included southern Africa work in their activities, still others are looking for ways to become involved. Activists seeking to organize in church communities should remember these important points:

Be familiar with the background of the church. It helps you to understand the context of their involvement in socially responsible projects;

Learn about other social actions the church has taken. Some churches already have a social action committee;

The minister, acting as leader of the congregation, should be seen as a significant individual in your activities. Try to involve the pastor in program events; this involvement will lend your program legitimacy;

Be open to learning about church structure and organization. For instance, churches that have early

worship services may be open to early morning activities;

Share with the minister and the church the history of your group's involvement with southern Africa work. This establishes your credibility;

Following are two suggested activities that your group and churches could coordinate to raise the level of awareness about the struggles in southern Africa and to solicit support for southern Africa projects.

Perhaps your church or organization has an innovative idea to involve more people in southern Africa work. Please send your ideas for projects to us so that we can share them with other activists and solidarity workers.

PRAAYER BREAKFAST MINISTERS MEETING

This is an opportunity to meet with area ministers to explain the situation in southern African and solicit the support of their congregation in educational and material aid campaigns. The best time to hold a prayer breakfast is on a weekday beginning at 8:30-9:00 a.m. and ending by 11:00 a.m. Never hold your prayer breakfast on monday; most ministers work all day sunday.

Schedule time for a brief question and answer period. It is also a good idea to hold your program when your organization has a specific way that the congregation can participate in an activity.

PROJECT: FREE SOUTH AFRICA SUNDAY

Ask the church to hold a special worship service devoted to southern Africa or a specific country such as South Africa or Namibia. Prepare a packet of information and resources for the minister. Announcements in church bulletins, and on religious radio and t.v.

Suggestions for programs:

- *special songs about South Africa, Namibia or southern Africa;
- *guest speaker to address the selected topic for the service;
- *special offering for a particular project or material aid campaign.

WHMM-TV TO AIR SPECIAL PROGRAMS MAY 18-20

In cooperation with the Southern Africa Support Project's (SASP) Southern Africa Week 1987 campaign, WHMM-TV, channel 32 will air six special programs. Each night from monday, May 18 to wednesday, May 20 documentary and dramatic presentations on southern Africa will be shown. Glimpses of everyday life will be shown along with the continuing struggles of South Africans for human rights and justice.

On monday, May 18 at 8:30 p.m., "The Torture of A South African Pastor" will be shown. This program presents the testimonies of a South African Lutheran pastor, Tshemuwemi Simon Farisani. It follows him through his imprisonment, hunger strike and release after worldwide protests in January 1987.

At 9 p.m., "Poppie" and "Black Dog": Scenes from South Africa will air. Featuring scenes from two award winning plays - "Poppie Nongena", and "Black Dog"- the program looks at life in South Africa and the performer's efforts to expose unjust policies through art and culture.

At 10 p.m. "Apartheid's People", taken from a McNeil/Lehrer Newhour special, looks at the lives of Black South Africans. It examines the daily activities of an advertising executive, a miner, a farmer, a politician, and a Black township.

On tuesday, May 19 WHMM-TV will show the widely acclaimed documentary "Nelson Mandela: The Struggle is my Life". An intimate look at the history of a people and how they responded to a repressive government and survived, "Nelson Mandela" stands as a significant accomplishment in filmmaking. It is a fitting tribute to the loyalty of the people of South Africa to their imprisoned leader.

Wednesday night, May 20, at 9:00 p.m. the life of women under apartheid and the special problems they face will be investigated. "Maids and Madams" presents a close-up view of Black South African women working as domestics in white South Africans' homes, and the women who employ them. The program looks at efforts to improve the conditions for Black women who labor as domestic workers. A special feature of the program is an interview with activist and leader Winnie Mandela.

At 10:00 p.m., the cameras will give us a special look at the reality of apartheid. Filmed in secret during the 1985 State of Emergency, "Witness To Apartheid" presents a compelling testimony by victims and witnesses of police violence and repression in South African townships. The film also focuses on the devastating effects of apartheid on the children of South Africa.

The Southern Africa Support Project is a Washington, D.C. based activist organization that works to educate and organize around the critical issues facing the southern Africa region. If you or your organization are interested in joining the struggle for human rights in southern Africa, please contact SASP, P.O. Box 50103, Washington, D.C. 20004. (202) 332-2009

Namibia: Country Under Siege

An Audio Slide Show

**This slide show
portrays basic facts
about Namibia such
as:**

- * *South Africa's Illegal Occupation*
- * *Life under Transplanted apartheid*
- * *The role of transnational corporations, including U.S. companies*
- * *The united States' collaborative role with South Africa*

*

**Support the South
West African
People's
Organization
(SWAPO)**
**Struggle to Liberate
Namibia !**

available through the
Southern Africa Support
Project (SASP)
P.O. Box 50103,
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 332-2009

**now also
available
in
3/4" & vhs
video tape**

SOUTHERN AFRICA WEEK "87
MAY 18-25, 1987

SOUTHERN AFRICA: REGION UNDER SIEGE

Monday, May 18, 1987

ANNUAL SASP/WHUR RADIOTHON,
WESTERN PLAZA, 14TH
AND PENNSYLVANIA AVE., N.W.
CALL IN YOUR PLEDGE BETWEEN
6 A.M. AND 12 MIDNIGHT

Tuesday, May 19, 1987

LUNCHTIME DISCUSSION:
DESTRUCTION AND DESTABILIZATION
IN MOZAMBIQUE
INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
1901 Q STREET, N.W., NOON

Thursday May 21, 1987

BLACK FILM INSTITUTE
FILM FESTIVAL 7:00 p.m.,
UNIVERSITY OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BLDG. 42, ROOM A-01

SPECIAL FORUM SERIES

A SERIES OF FORUMS ADDRESSING THE MOST
PRESSING ISSUES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

May 12, 1987, 7p.m.

ALL SOUL'S UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
16TH AND HARVARD ST., N.W.

May 20, 1987, 6:00 p.m.

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY CENTER,
3515 21ST. ST., S.E.

May 17, 1987, 2:30 p.m.

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND
ST. PAUL AND AUGUSTINE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
1425 V STREET, N.W.

May 24, 1987, 11:30 p.m.

ST. TIMOTHY EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
3601 ALABAMA AVE., S.E.

May 24, 1987, 2:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE LIVING
CHRIST
1244 FLA., N.E.

FOR INFORMATION:
SOUTHERN AFRICA SUPPORT PROJECT
(SASP)
P.O. BOX 50103
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004
(202) 332-2009

SOUTH AFRICA: FREE THE CHILDREN !

The Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC) reports that at least 876 children under the age of 18 had been detained since the latest state of emergency declaration in South Africa. Under detention statutes, children of any age may be incarcerated for months without charges, parental notification or right to counsel. One pregnant mother gave birth while in police custody, and authorities refused to release her newborn child. The DPSC, in a February report, said that there were 720 children and youth under 8 still in custody. Three of the children have been charged with attempted murder. The figures are:

3	11-year olds;
5	12-year olds;
70	14-year olds;
113	15-year olds;
178	16-year olds;
167	17-year olds; and
163	18 year olds.

LET BOTHA AND REAGAN
KNOW
WE WANT THE
CHILDREN FREED !

BLACK FILM INSTITUTE TO SCREEN TWO FILMS

The Black Film Institute will screen two films during Southern Africa Week 1987. **Maids and Madams**, a film shot by Mira Hermesh in South Africa, looks at the situation of the over one million Black women who work as domestics. The second film, **Howl at the Moon**, explores the complex problems facing a Black South African woman as she fights to keep her family together while working in the home of her white employer. Both films will be screened at the University of the District of Columbia, Van Ness campus, Building 42, Room A-01, on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m.

SASP
P.O. Box 50103
WDC 20004
(202) 332-2009

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Wash., D.C.
Permit No. 4132

