

# Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid

Mailing Address: Machinists District 8, 1225 S. Harlem, Forest Park, IL 60130

## Chairs

### **Johnnie Jackson**

President, Chicago Chapter  
Coalition of Labor Union Women

### **Jack Parton**

Director, District 31  
United Steelworkers of America

### **Bill Stewart**

Director, Region 4  
United Auto Workers

## Co-Chairs

### **Michael Calendo**

Directing Business Representative  
District 8, Machinists

### **Stephen M. Cullen**, Executive Director

**Rosetta Daylie**, Associate Director  
Council 31, American Federation of State,  
County & Municipal Employees

### **Elcosie Gresham**

President, Local 241  
Amalgamated Transit Union

### **Phillip Immesote**

Director, Region 11  
United Food & Commercial Workers

### **Tony Kujawa**

International Exec. Board, District 12  
United Mine Workers of America

### **Arthur Loevy**

Manager, Chicago & Central States  
Joint Board, Amalgamated Clothing and  
Textile Workers Union

### **Eugene Moats**

President, Joint Council 1  
Service Employees International Union

### **Louis Montenegro**

Director, Midwest Region  
Internat'l. Ladies Garment Workers Union

### **Robert Nelson**

National Vice-President  
American Federation of Govt. Employees

### **Robert T. Simpson, Jr.**

Vice-President, Local 743  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

### **Jacqueline Vaughn**

President, Chicago Teachers Union

## Coordinators

### **Kathy Devine**

Coalition of Labor Union Women  
(312) 583-6661

### **Harold Rogers**

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
(312) 684-7309

## Steering Committee (in formation)

### **John Agrela**

Business Manager, Local 571  
Sheet Metal Workers

### **Charles Barton**

Secy-Treas., Local 500P, UFCW

### **Emma Beck**

Retired, Local 500P, UFCW

### **Joe Costigan**

Education Dept., ACTWU

### **Bob Dahlke**

President/Bus. Mgr., Local 165  
Int. Brotherhood of Elec. Workers

### **Mike Flores**

Int. Rep., Coordinator Civil  
Rights Council, Reg. 4, UAW

### **Michael I. Handley**

Assistant to Vice-President, District 4,  
Communications Workers of America

The Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid, announcing its formation today, is mobilizing local unions and the public to demand the freedom of jailed trade unionists and other opponents of South Africa's apartheid system, and an end to the trials of union leaders charged with treason and subversion.

ILNAA is part of an international movement to free South African unionists that includes the International Metalworkers' Federation, the AFL-CIO, and many international unions.

Fifteen top union leaders in Illinois serve as chairs and co-chairs of the Network, which includes AFL-CIO and independent unions. It will seek endorsements from AFL-CIO central labor bodies in Illinois.

## Actions

The ILNAA steering committee has adopted specific plans to (1) protest the trials and jailings of labor leaders, (2) step up the boycott of Shell Oil Co., and (3) demand that the U.S. Congress institute stronger sanctions against South Africa.

As an educational and communications network, ILNAA will keep unions informed of local actions related to South Africa and the state of affairs in South Africa. This is most important since the state of emergency and a news blackout, imposed in June 1986, are yet in effect today.

ILNAA is also considering possibilities of developing direct ties between related unions in South Africa and Illinois.

2/15/1988

### **Bessie Lee**

V-P, Chicago Joint Board, RWDSU

### **Max Liberles**

President, Local 2000, AFSCME

### **Ronald F. Luesmann**

President, Local 1550, UFCW

### **Ron Martin**

Region 1, AFL-CIO

### **Arthur L. Mitcham**

Exec. Board, Local 81, Internat'l.  
Fed. of Professional & Tech. Engineers

### **Rick Olesen**

President, Local 145, UAW

### **Ronald Powell**

President, Local 881, UFCW

### **Alfonso Richardson**

Business Rep., Local 881, UFCW

### **Frank Rosen**

Director, District 11, UE

### **Rachel Rubin**

Chair, Chicago Committee in  
Solidarity with Southern Africa

### **Carl Shier**

President, Retired Workers Chapter  
Local 6, UAW

### **Carole Travis**

President, Local 719, UAW

### **Mitch Vogel**

President, Local 4100, AFT

### **Cleveland Ware**

President, Chicago Area Civil  
Rts. Council, Reg. 4, UAW

### **Jarvis Williams**

President, Local 46, SEIU

### **Cole Wright**

President, Local 500P, UFCW

### **Richard Ziebell**

President, Local 477, UAW

Background Information

TRIAL OF MOSES MAYEKISO AND OTHER UNION ACTIVISTS

Introduction: South Africa's apartheid government has charged Moses Mayekiso with treason. As General Secretary of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), Moses holds the top position in the second largest union in South Africa.

After his June 1986 arrest, Moses was confined in prison even though no charges had been filed against him. He was held in solitary confinement for 10 months, tortured, and not allowed visitors.

In April 1987, Moses and his brother Mwanele Mayekiso, Paul Tashabalala, Richard Mdakane, and Obed Bapela were formally charged with treason, sedition and subversion in a 163-page indictment. The charges focus on organizing activities in the black township of Alexandra.

The trial of Mayekiso is a blatant attempt to intimidate trade unions. In the last 15 years, union membership has soared to more than 1.7 million. Unions have become increasingly militant in their opposition to apartheid and have emerged as the key force opposing the white minority government.

Who is Moses Mayekiso? Moses was born 39 years ago. As a young man he became a migrant worker in the gold mines, living after work each day in the harsh, prison-like conditions of the male-only hostels.

Moses joined the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU), now part of the larger NUMSA, after going to work in an auto parts plant. In 1980, he became the Transvaal secretary of MAWU. Moses played a leading role in various struggles for union recognition as well as several successful battles to improve pay and conditions.

Through MAWU, Moses helped pioneer the democratic, shop-floor-based trade unionism now widespread in South Africa. After a "stayaway" strike in 1984, he was arrested and kept in solitary confinement. There were massive protests in South Africa and an international campaign on his behalf. He was released, but was arrested twice more in 1985.

Mayekiso carried the fight for justice into the Alexandra township where he lived with his wife and 7 children. He and his family lived in one room, 15 feet by 10 feet, with two beds, no electricity or running water. In 1985, the community undertook a series of actions including rent boycotts and the creation of the Alexandra Action Committee, chaired by Moses, and encouraged the police and security forces to leave the township.

Moses helped draft the constitution in late 1985 of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)—a militant, 700,000-member federation of trade unions. He was arrested in March 1986, and again, upon his release, he kept up his work as a trade union and local community leader.

When South Africa declared its State of Emergency in June 1986, Mayekiso was meeting with unionists in Sweden. The government refused to renew his passport in an apparent attempt to force him into exile. Instead, he flew home where he was immediately jailed.

Delegates to the NUMSA congress unanimously elected Moses Mayekiso General Secretary in May 1987.

The trial: Charged with treason, sedition and subversion, Moses and the 4 others are specifically accused of forming a "residents' committee" which the government claims undermined the government's authority in Alexandra, and amounted to treason. Other charges are based on Moses' support for the metalworkers' strike against the British conglomerate BTR.

The trial began in 1987 and resumed on February 1, 1988. It is the first time that South Africa has tried a senior union leader for treason. COSATU has been indicted as a co-conspirator in the case.

The trial is a naked assault on trade unions, precisely when they have emerged as the strongest force confronting the outrages of apartheid in the workplace and in communities where their members live.

The campaign to free Mayekiso: Members of NUMSA are campaigning for Moses' release, as is COSATU, to which NUMSA is affiliated. Posters, leaflets, badges and tee shirts calling for his freedom can be seen in every factory in South Africa.

A committee of prominent U.S. judges and attorneys, convened by UAW President Owen Bieber, is monitoring the legal developments in the case.

A broad international campaign for Mayekiso's freedom is being led by the International Metalworkers' Federation based in Switzerland.

The Sharpeville Six: In a related development, six anti-apartheid activists, known as the Sharpeville Six, were sentenced to death in January 1988 for their alleged involvement in township troubles following protests over rent rises in 1984.

Theresa Ramashomole, a member of the Municipal and Allied Workers' Union, is the first woman to receive the death sentence in South Africa.

Residents of black townships have become increasingly dissatisfied with local governmental structures set up by the apartheid regime. They have formed strong civic organizations that have evoked violent government reaction and occupation of some townships by police and security forces.

In 1987, more than 28,000 people were detained under the State of Emergency decrees.

Sources of information: International Metalworkers' Federation in Geneva, Switzerland, and United Auto Workers in Washington, D.C.

Background Information  
THE SHELL BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN

At the request of the National Union of Mineworkers, South Africa's largest labor union, the United Mine Workers and the United Auto Workers initiated a boycott of all Shell products. This boycott has been endorsed by the AFL-CIO, 47 US labor unions, the World Council of Churches, the NAACP, the National Organization for Women (NOW) and many other groups.

The Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid had adopted three major focuses in support of the boycott. The first is to get Shell stockholders in Illinois to support a call for an extraordinary stockholders' meeting to end Shell operations in South Africa. The effort will concentrate on major corporate stockholders, including Chicago's American National Bank, which with 959,928 shares of Shell stock is the 20th largest US stockholder.

Second, we will ask all governmental bodies in Illinois to end use of Shell products. Public funds should not be used to support apartheid.

Third, we ask consumers to boycott all Shell products. These include not only Shell gasoline and oil, but also such products as Meridyne car radios; Heritage furniture polish; and Citrus Blossom, Open Air and Wild Flower air fresheners.

Why Shell?

Royal Dutch/Shell is a multinational corporation, based in the Netherlands and Great Britain. In terms of assets, it is the largest corporation in the world. Its subsidiary in the United States is Shell Oil Company.

South Africa has no oil of its own. In South Africa, Shell co-owns or operates the nation's largest oil refinery; the offshore station through which most imported oil is delivered; an oil pipeline operated with the South African government; and more than 800 gasoline stations.

Shell is one of only five companies in the world to ignore the United Nations' ban on supplying oil to South Africa. Shell provides oil and gasoline to South Africa's military and police forces. Through agreements with the South African government, Shell has promised to meet specialized strategic needs, and to maintain South African oil supplies.

In return, Shell exports six million tons of South African coal per year to the international market. This directly competes with coal mined in the United States.

In 1985, 86 miners at the Rietspruit coal mine, owned 50% by Shell, were fired for trying to hold a memorial service for a worker killed in a mine accident. The company forced the miners to return to work at gunpoint.

American labor is directly affected. We must compete in the international market with coal mined at gunpoint by workers paid starvation wages. South African coal sales to potential US customers in Europe and Asia have increased more than 1000% since 1975.

Shell has told its stockholders that each of its subsidiaries should operate "within the laws of the country within which its operations are conducted." In South Africa, this means complying with apartheid. Shell also told stockholders that refusing to supply oil to the South African military and police "would constitute interference in the internal affairs of that country."

Background Information

U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Many union and anti-apartheid groups are calling for Comprehensive Sanctions as a necessary response to the violent repression of the black majority by South Africa's apartheid government.

In October of 1986, Congress enacted a limited sanctions law—the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986—over President Reagan's vigorous opposition and veto.

One year later, the President issued a report on South Africa in which he admitted that South Africa had made no attempt to end apartheid. But he refused to recommend to Congress additional sanctions to be imposed on the Pretoria government, as mandated by the law. A few days later, a bi-partisan group of Congressional leaders denounced the President's report and called upon him to comply with the law by recommending additional sanctions.

In anticipation of the continued anti-sanctions position of the Reagan Administration, HR 1580/S 556, the Dellums/Cranston bill was introduced in early 1987. It mandates complete disinvestment of all U.S. corporations from South Africa and Namibia within 6 months of passage. Most trade would be banned. The bill includes some of the stronger sections of the present law, such as the termination of the treaty permitting air flights between South Africa and the U.S.

Co-sponsors of HR 1580 include: U.S. representatives Charles Hayes, Gus Savage, Cardiss Collins, Lane Evans and Kenneth Gray.

HR 3317, the Anti-Apartheid Petroleum Sanctions Act, introduced in late 1987, would prohibit oil exports to South Africa and investments in any oil company doing business in South Africa, foreign or domestic. This bill supplements HR 1580/S 556, which does not apply sanctions to foreign multinationals that have large U.S. operations—such as Royal Dutch Shell.

Comprehensive sanctions and disinvestment are strongly supported by most South African trade unions, including the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Union of Mineworkers, and by the South African Council of Churches, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and other leading opponents of apartheid.

Sources of Information: Washington Office on Africa and the New York Labor Committee Against Apartheid.