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BOYCOTT SHELL

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Five More Cities Declare Themselves "Shell-Free"

City councils in Philadelphia, PA; New Haven, CT; Highland Park, NJ; Takoma Park, MD; and Vancouver, B.C., Canada, have passed resolutions boycotting Shell products until Royal Dutch/Shell withdraws from South Africa.

Philadelphia enacted a bill in June, 1989, which prohibited the city from entering into contracts with firms that do business with South Africa. Councilman David Cohen's "Shell-Free" resolution, adopted November 30, 1989, made Shell a specific target, calling upon all Philadelphians to refrain from doing business with Royal Dutch/Shell and barring the city from buying Shell products.

On December 4, 1989, the Board of Aldermen in **New Haven, CT**, expanded on their August, 1989, pledge

to prohibit purchases from businesses with ties to South Africa, barring the city from doing business with Royal Dutch/Shell and the Shell Oil Co. "until Royal Dutch/Shell completely withdraws from South Africa."

Takoma Park, MD, which in 1985 called for sanctions against South Africa, resolved last May that it would be "Shell-Free" until Royal Dutch/Shell disinvests, stating that "the citizens of Takoma Park recognize their collective responsibility as a community to express their repugnance of and moral outrage against the racist apartheid regime in South Africa and to take action to bring about the end of apartheid." (See *SHELL-FREE*, next page)

Shell Target of Human Rights Week

Shell boycott supporters throughout the United States declared the week of December 4-10, 1989, Human Rights Week of Actions Against Shell, commemorating the 41st anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

"Without Shell's support, South Africa's apparatus of repression would soon grind to a halt," said United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka and

United Auto Workers President Owen Bieber in a letter to boycott supporters. "We are calling on you to once again tell Shell, if it cares about human rights in South Africa, to take concrete action by withdrawing from South Africa."

Activities ranged from pickets and demonstrations to prayer services, vigils, and educational forums. Members of Congress presented a letter to the

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HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK ACTIONS: Demonstrators in New Brunswick, NJ, protested at the entrance to the New Jersey Turnpike, calling on travellers not to buy Shell gas and oil (left). At right, Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messenger addresses crowd from the steps of City Hall in New York.

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Citing South Africa's racist apartheid regime as the reason for unanimously approving its "Shell-Free" resolution, **Highland Park, NJ's** borough council prohibited all its departments from purchasing any Shell Oil products until the company stops doing business in South Africa.

In Canada, **Vancouver's** City Council voted not to do business with Shell Canada Ltd. until its parent company, Royal Dutch/Shell, disinvests from South Africa or until apartheid is abolished. The city was purchasing gas, propane, and liquid asphalt from Shell Canada. The city's action makes Vancouver the first "Shell-Free" city in Canada.

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president of Royal Dutch/Shell, urging disinvestment.

■ In **Baltimore**, Mayor Kurt Schmoke urged all citizens "to express their abhorrence of apartheid in South Africa and to work to bring pressure on the South African government by boycotting all products produced by the Shell Oil Company."

■ In **Chicago**, local groups organized a Human Rights Walk which stopped outside the South African consulate to "draw attention to the human rights abuses in South Africa and call (on) Chicagoans to join the Shell Oil boycott as a way to demand an end to the apartheid system in South Africa."

■ In **Houston**, activists held a Human Rights Day forum on South

Week of Actions Against Shell Called For March 18-24

March 18-24 will mark the Third Annual Week of Actions Against Shell to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, when 69 unarmed black South Africans were gunned down by South African security forces during a peaceful protest.

Activists are encouraged to plan activities such as pickets and leafleting of Shell stations, demonstrations outside Shell's corporate offices, or educational forums, and to call Shell at 1-800-331-3703 or 713-241-6161 to voice complaints.

Notify the national office at 202-842-7352 by March 1 with your plans or call for further information or materials.

Africa and protested at Shell's corporate offices.

■ In **Tallahassee, FL**, boycott supporters leafleted at Florida State and Florida A&M Universities.

■ In **New York City**, a prayer service and press conference were held on city hall steps to lobby for legislation to tighten the city's selective purchasing laws, including a provision which would prohibit indirect sales of Shell products to the city.

■ "Call Shell Days" were organized in **Cleveland, OH; Norfolk, VA; and New Jersey**, during which boycott supporters gave Shell their views on apartheid—at Shell's expense—by calling the company's toll-free number.

■ Anti-apartheid groups picketed and leafleted at Shell stations in **Birmingham, AL; Seattle, WA; Dallas, TX; Tallahassee, FL; Baltimore, MD; and along the New Jersey Turnpike.**

Chemical Workers Union Lambasts Shell

The Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) of South Africa has rated Shell the worst employer in the oil industry, based on a poll among CWIU organizers and shop stewards.

The company's strike record bears this out. In the past two years, more disputes and strikes have occurred at Shell subsidiaries than at any other company in the industry.

Shell is the only oil company which refuses to conduct annual negotiations at a national level. Strikes have occurred at various Shell subsidiaries over this issue, as well as over wages, working conditions, overtime practices, and the company's refusal to participate in an industry-wide retirement fund.

"The CWIU's view is that Shell is consistently giving the world and the South African public a very false and misleading impression of its presence and activities in South Africa," CWIU petrol coordinator Martin Jansen said. "Shell's objectives are to receive a good return on investments in South Africa on the basis of exploiting South African workers and assisting the upholding of the status quo, and consequently the apartheid regime."

The company has also been accused of harassing employees for their union activities. When the CWIU declared a dispute with Shell for refusing to agree to industry-wide bargaining, the union said that shop stewards collecting strike ballots were victimized. One shop steward was transferred and demoted while another was dismissed.



ATLANTA PROTESTS: At an October, 1989, demonstration sponsored by the National Association of Black Seminarians, boycott supporters in Atlanta demanded that Royal Dutch/Shell withdraw from South Africa.



A Shell-Free Zone Declaration

A Shell-Free Zone is a union, church, synagogue, school, campus, community organization, job site, local business, or other organization which does not purchase or use Shell products. By signing and returning this declaration to us as soon as possible, your organization can strengthen the international boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell.

Please copy this blank form and distribute to other organizations which might be interested.

The government of South Africa, in defense of the policies of apartheid, has maintained a state of emergency since July 20, 1985, thereby increasing military and police actions in the black townships, has restricted the operation of democratic organizations working to end apartheid, and has denied the majority of South Africans their basic human rights.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Reverend Allan Boesak, the South African Council of Churches, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa have called upon U.S. organizations working for justice and democracy in South Africa to join in the international campaign to end all support for the government of South Africa and its policies of apartheid.

Royal Dutch/Shell, through its subsidiary, Shell South Africa, provides the South African police and military with fuel vital to their efforts to enforce apartheid.

The Government of South Africa defines oil as a "munition of war," and any oil company operating in South Africa is governed by a law which allows the South African government to operate the company's facilities in time of national emergency.

Major U.S. religious, civil rights, labor and anti-apartheid organizations have responded to the call from leading South Africans to join the campaign to end apartheid and suspend business with Royal Dutch/Shell, until Royal Dutch/Shell, in consultation with its workers and their unions, disinvests from and severs all ties with South Africa.

Therefore, the _____
declares itself a Shell-Free Zone and will neither purchase nor utilize Shell products until Royal Dutch/Shell, in consultation with its workers and their unions, disinvests from and severs all ties with South Africa.

Please record specific information about your institution below:

Organization _____

Address _____
Street City State ZIP

Telephone Number _____ Contact Person _____

Please send a copy of this signed declaration to: **Shell Boycott Campaign, 900 15th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005.**