

July 27, 1993

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On July 7, the Illinois Labor Network sponsored the union rally welcoming Nelson Mandela to Chicago. It was organized on short notice to salute Mandela and raise money for the first-ever democratic election in South African history to be held in April of 1994.

It was a great privilege to welcome Nelson Mandela! Unions members came to see and to hear a leader and his cause which has for generations raised the conscience of the world -- a cause to which many in that union hall on July 7 have been part. The election in South Africa has only been made possible because of people like you who over the years have kept the pressure on apartheid.

It was a proud moment for all of us who organized the rally because many pitched in to help make it possible and everyone did their job. A very warm thank you is due to the Chicago Federation of Labor, Illinois State AFL-CIO and Region 1 AFL-CIO, as well as to some fabulous union organizers -- all of whom helped make the rally a rousing success. Special credit goes to the unions which have long been part of the anti-apartheid movement.

I've enclosed with this letter a contribution and order form. If you or your union have not yet contributed, I urge you to do so now. The job ahead for Nelson Mandela and the mass democratic movement in South Africa is monumental; they need your help. A video on the labor rally is being produced; you will be notified of how to order it... 

Also enclosed with this letter is a flyer on a CLUW-sponsored event on Friday, August 6, commemorating South African Women's Day. We hope you'll join us on August 6 to help keep the pressure on apartheid until democratic elections can be held next spring.

In solidarity,

Kathy Devine

Enclosures