"THE ARRESTS OF MIKE YOUNG AND JOHN SPEARMAN REPRESENTS PART OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENTS ATTACK ON ALL PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, ACTIVELY STRUGGLING FOR JUSTICE..."

William Kunstler and C. Vernon Mason, Attorneys for Michael Young and John Spearman.

On Tuesday, September 22, 1981, while thousands of people were outside Albany's Bleecker Stadium protesting the South African Springbok Rugby Team, four anti-apartheid activists were being held in an Albany jail in what amounted to preventive detention.

In a blatant attempt to slow down the protest against the South African Springboks, the Albany police - armed with shotguns, pistols and "information" supplied by the FBI - broke into the apartment of Vera Michaelson at 3:30 in the morning and arrested Vera, Aaron Estis and Mike Young, a co-convener of New York City SART (Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour). Along with John Spearman, arrested the night before in a "stolen car" - one that belonged to Mike Young - the four were denied bail until Thursday morning, effectively removing them from the Springbok protest.

These four - and five others who were also arrested in connection with the Albany Springbok match - were arrested because of their struggle against apartheid. The Coalition to Defend the Albany 9 has taken up their defense in the same spirit: the fight against apartheid.

We are putting forward the following demands:

1. DROP THE CHARGES: We are demanding that the Albany County District Attorney drop the charges against the Albany defendants.
2. END U.S./SOUTH AFRICAN COLLABORATION: U.S./South African relations, always close, are getting even closer. The Reagan administration's veto of a resolution condemning South Africa's invasion of Angola and the issuing of visas to the Springboks are only two instances of this increased collaboration.
3. STOP U.S. GOVERNMENT REPRESSION: The charges against the nine range from possession of firecrackers to possession of a weapon. Their trials will probably take place in the early Spring - our most urgent tasks are fund-raising and publicizing the cases.

YOU CAN HELP BY:
* Adding your name as a supporter of the Coalition.
* Donating money to the legal defense.
* Publicizing the case.
* Arranging for someone to speak to your group.

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