southern africa:

A Concern of all African Peoples

PORTUGAL IN AFRICA

Since reaching the shores of Africa 500 years ago, the Portuguese have enslaved and exploited black people. Today, the Portuguese show no indication of allowing Africans to govern themselves. Portugal’s colonies in Africa include Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, the Cape Verde Islands and Sao Tome and Principe. With a population of about nine million in a 35,000 square mile corner of Europe, Portugal still attempts to rule 14 million black people occupying nearly 800,000 square miles in Africa. Since 1961, nationalist African forces have been challenging the Portuguese occupation by armed rebellion.

The Police State Apparatus

The police state in the colonies is an extension of the police state in Portugal itself. Infringements on possible rights of the accused include a six-month renewable detention without arraignment, legal charges, or right to counsel and the use of torture to extract confessions.

Men over 18, boys from 12 to 18 who are employed and women employed in cities must carry passbooks. These books contain fingerprints, a photograph, and other statistics. Without it blacks risk correctional labor (de facto slavery). This practice creates an enormous labor supply for the colonies and the mines of South Africa.

In order to enjoy the rights of the Portuguese (who are not required to carry passbooks), blacks must achieve assimilado status. To do this blacks must be able to read and speak Portuguese when almost half the people in Portugal are illiterate (40%).

Education

Portugal limits the number of assimilados by spending pitifully little on education. As a result the literacy rate among blacks has not climbed above 2%. Even those who do become assimilados get only the jobs unwanted by whites and are not allowed to vote in assemblies with any real influence.
Land Policy

Some 90 per cent of the Angolan and Mozambican people still live on the land and try to make their living from it but land policy favors the white settlers to the extent that in Angola average acreage occupied by Europeans is 60 times that by Africans.

The administration is forcibly relocating people in regedorias, African land reserves. Africans who live outside of them are subject to removal from their land if it is not cultivated for two years.

Labor and Wages

The absence of trade unionism or even minimal civil liberties means that African workers have no protection from coercion and wages are abnormally low. Although racial breakdowns in the wage schedules are not published, it is clear that in general European workers receive up to three times the wages of Africans.

The Wars of Liberation

Open fighting between Portuguese troops and African nationalist forces has been continuous in Angola since 1961. Three major nationalist political groups are involved: GRAE-FNLA with headquarters in Kinshasa, Congo; MPLA with headquarters in Brazzaville, Congo and UNITA. In Mozambique, two major parties exist, FRELIMO and COREMO. Fighting by FRELIMO began in northern Mozambique in September 1964; three provinces are now under siege. In Guinea-Bissau, two thirds of the country is controlled by the forces of PAIGC under the leadership of Amilcar Cabral. Portugal has seen fit to commit half of its national budget to the suppression of African nationalism. She also has the full support of the NATO powers without which support, she would have no artillery, armor or planes. The spirit of African nationalism is movingly expressed by Angolan leader Holden Roberto speaking in 1961, “This is a cruel war and it will be a long lasting one, demanding our all if it is to be carried out efficiently. Its outcome is certain . . . If Salazar imagines he has crushed our army I assure him he is only deceiving himself. He is faced with a war that can last for a 100 years, for our people have sworn they will be free and so they will.”
From 1923 to 1953 Rhodesia was a self governing colony. External affairs and a veto on discriminatory legislation remained in the hands of the British Parliament. Between 1953 and 1963 Rhodesia was federated with Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia. In 1964, Nyasaland became independent Malawi and Northern Rhodesia became independent Zambia. The whole population of these two colonies had expressed its desire to end colonial status. This was achieved through an election on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The whites who lived primarily in Southern Rhodesia refused to permit democratic nonracialism. On November 11, 1965, Ian Smith unilaterally declared independence from Britain to keep in power the present minority, racist government.

Rhodesian Realities 1963 - present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>Whites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The people</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>260,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The legislature</td>
<td>16 seats</td>
<td>50 seats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual income</td>
<td>$386.40</td>
<td>$3,810.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Police State Stability

Since November 1965 the Minister of Justice has had legal power of Preventative Detention which has resulted in the jailing of thousands of Africans for political offenses. Many are under sentences of death.

The Law and Order Maintenance Act and the unlawful Organization Act forbid African gatherings, political meetings and demonstrations. The major African political parties ZAPU and ZANU are outlawed.

Education

Expenditures for African education have been pegged at 2% of the GNP and the present government has halved the number of Africans who can enter secondary school.

In 1965 the per capita expenditures for white students was $382.98 when only $29.79 for black students.
The African can never become properly enfranchised because he must have a secondary school education to become one of the “A” role votes which elect 50 legislators in any assembly of 66.

Land Policy

In the main, Rhodesia is divided between Tribal Trust land for Africans of 40 million acres and the European area covering 36 million acres. Sixteen times as many people live on the Tribal Trust Land as in the European areas.

AZANIA (South Africa)

About the same time Europeans began settling in America, another group of Europeans was settling in South Africa. The indigenous black people in South Africa were robbed of their land and very often their lives. In 1948 Black South Africans demanded the granting of full citizenship rights such as enjoyed by all Europeans in South Africa. In response to these demands the white minority introduced the policy of “apartheid” a policy calling for complete separation of the races. In 1971 South Africa remains dedicated to the principle of apartheid fortified by some of the harshest laws since Nazi Germany. To the African apartheid means humiliation, degradation, starvation, disease and death, jail, beatings, torture and hangings. These same policies remain in force also in Namibia (Southwest Africa) despite several U.N. resolutions ordering South Africa to withdraw its administration from that territory.

South African Realities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (Millions)</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income per capita</td>
<td>$116</td>
<td>$1,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average wage (Mining)</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$4,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income exempt from tax</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>$840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education expenditure per pupil</td>
<td>$19</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality per 1000 births</td>
<td>200 plus</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>37-42</td>
<td>67-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of land reserved</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons in registered trade unions</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>344,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons convicted for not having passbooks since 1948</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Selection of the Approximately 70 Laws Concerning "Apartheid" Police State Stability

An African may not vote and has no voice in his future. He must use strictly those public facilities reserved for him.

An African may not carry arms, travel as he pleases or choose freely his place of residence. Explicit permission is required to leave the country.

Africans must always carry passbooks and may be arrested without warrants. They can be jailed without a trial, detained after the term has expired or retried on charges previously dismissed.

African membership in political parties is prohibited and meetings to be attended by more than ten black people are not allowed without a permit.

Land Policy

An African person is forbidden to own land anywhere, even in his own area, the Bantustan "homelands" which represent only 13% of the land mass. He may be removed from any area at any time without access to the courts.

United States Support of Apartheid

There are 260 American corporations and businesses operating in South Africa. The American private investment amounts to more than 800 million dollars. According to the rough reckoning published in economic journals in that part of Africa, the return on investment under the labor conditions prevailing there runs to about $200,000,000 a year. This is what American investors siphon off from the exploitative situation in South Africa each year. Additionally the United Stated government has U.S. missile tracking stations located in South Africa and pays to that government sugar prices substantially above the world market price.
Why We Must Help

Our people living in white ruled countries on the mother continent have responded to this unparalleled oppression with tremendous courage in an effort to ultimately liberate all of Africa from white minority rule. As an African people, it is our responsibility to do what we can to help. The major refugee movements in these countries from 1961 until 1969 concern people from Angola (381,000), Mozambique (32,000), Guinea-Bissau (57,000) and South Africa (15,000). The number of refugees leaving Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Namibia (Southwest Africa) is undetermined. Senegal, Congo, Zambia and Tanzania have not only served as staging areas for black liberation groups but have received hundreds of thousands of refugees with open arms. We too must do our part to relieve the suffering of the oppressed homeless and hungry, some of whom were forced to leave their homelands and some not able to leave. It must be remembered that their problems must be our problems and our problems must be their problems for we are one as an African people. Only in this way can we move forward together.

Southern Africa Relief Fund
Harvard Black Law Students Assoc.
P. O. Box 514
Brookline Village, MA 02147