What is apartheid?

Apartheid is the name given to the system of racial slavery and white minority rule that exists in South Africa. It is propped up by the U.S., Israel, and other governments and kept in power by multi-national corporations and banks, many of which are based in the U.S. These profit to the tune of billions of dollars from the exploitation of slave labor in South Africa and the theft of vast natural resources, particularly gold and diamonds. 25 million Black African people (80% of the population) are denied the most basic human and political rights. In South Africa:

* Black people are not allowed to vote or to choose their own leaders.

* They are forced into concentration camps, laboring at slave wages under miserable conditions, separated from their families and loved ones for the benefit of the white minority and foreign corporate exploitation. 99% of all Black families have incomes of less than $230 per month, which is below the official "Household Subsistence Level." It is also 1/6th the average income of white families.

* Black people are denied the right to own land, according to South African law. 87% of the land is owned by the white minority. The remaining 13% -- comprised of arid, desolate territory -- is divided into "Homelands," the equivalent of Native American Indian reservations in the U.S.

* All Black people must show I.D.s (passbooks) on demand. Over 10,000 people are arrested every day for not having their documents in order.

* DOCTORS: One doctor for every 330 whites; one doctor for every 19,000 Africans. INFANT MORTALITY: 7x greater for Blacks than for whites. EDUCATION: Free for whites, not for Blacks. GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON EDUCATION: $1,115 for white children, $170 for each African child. DISABILITY: A white miner who gets tuberculosis is eligible for $6,458; a Black miner: $823.

* There are over 1,000 laws governing the lifestyle and whereabouts of people based solely on the color of their skin.

The government of South Africa is, in many ways, comparable to that of Nazi Germany. The U.S. is the number one trading partner of this evil dictatorship. Each community in the U.S. houses institutions that either financially or politically give support to the continuation of white racist rule in South Africa. Says Ronald Reagan: "Can we abandon a country (South Africa) that has stood beside us in every war we ever fought? A country that strategically is essential to the free world in its production of minerals that we must all have." We in Brooklynites Against Apartheid answer: "Hell yes!"

Across the U.S. students have taken over administration buildings by the hundreds demanding all U.S. business out of South Africa. Longshoremen in San Francisco have refused to unload S. African cargo. A nationwide boycott of the S. African film "The Gods Must Be Crazy" is underway. And many community activists are taking up the call to make their community an "Apartheid-free" zone. We want to make clear: We not only oppose the policies of apartheid and the U.S. government's role in maintaining it; we support the just war of the Black South African majority against apartheid. All people have the right to determine for themselves their own destinies. We encourage you to join with us.

*bklyntes Against Apartheid