You've read about it in the newspapers, you can see it on TV every night and now here it is in Bensonhurst. What is it?...Opposition to apartheid or white minority rule in South Africa.

We are here today to welcome you to: ...The world that allows the United States to be the number one trading partner with a regime (the South African government) that is continuously compared to that of Nazi Germany. Perhaps you might think that South Africa is so far away that it cannot affect you, and that those responsible for the denial of political and human rights to over 25 million Black Africans (80% of the South African population) are also far away. Well, they're not. 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.

The white minority rulers in South Africa depend on a lot of different means of help from the United States and the people of the United States. First and foremost, there's what the U.S. government does, which is to view the South African government as a strategic, political ally. Thus, the government here, is always finding ways to ship more guns and military hardware down to its friends in South Africa, even though it reluctantly criticizes apartheid. Then, there are the corporations and banks which profit so enormously from investment in South Africa. Finally, there is the acquiescence of white Americans to the idea that racism is not such a bad way to organize society.

We are outside Republic National Bank. This is what they do to support apartheid:
* Republic National Bank sells Krugerrands which are South African gold coins.
* The sale of gold is pivotal to a healthy South African economy (South Africa is the largest producer of gold in the world). A healthy South African economy means more money for the South African government and more guns for the white army and the police to control Black people.
* Black miners dig out the gold under extremely harsh conditions. White bosses get to spend the profits of this gold. Each Krugerrand symbolizes the misery of Black mineworkers in South Africa.

If you feel strongly about the system of apartheid, you can begin by exposing the role of Republic National Bank in your community. How you seek to do that is up to you. It can become the target of continuous demonstrations, or you could perhaps convince other folk in the community why it should be boycotted. Organizing against the sale of Krugerrands by this bank is one way that you could put a stop to the almost continual stream of benefits derived from the system of inequality in South Africa.

But opposition can't just stop here. The white minority population in South Africa is fighting a war in order to defend its economic, political and social advantages over the Black majority. This is not so different from the way that white communities in the United States often react to demands for equality and social justice coming from the Black community. Apartheid will be put on the run when its existence is challenged everywhere. How about starting here?

Produced by Brooklynites Against Apartheid...Interested...check us out at 718-638-0417

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