Aid victims of South Africa's racism

"600 families (of jailed political prisoners) with over 2,000 children, and at the moment we can do no more than pay their rent and give a pitifully small supply of powdered milk, etc. to the children."

—Letter from Port Elizabeth, early 1965
South Africa... “beloved” country

Behind the jailings and the hunger outlined in this folder lies the system of apartheid. While the world generally moves away from racial distinctions, South Africa stands out as a flagrant exception. Even the fierce segregation movement in Mississippi and Alabama, carried on in defiance of the American nation, pales when set against the government-enforced apartheid of South Africa. Not since the days of Hitler has the world seen such cruelty codified into a legal system—victimizing more than thirteen million non-whites for the benefit of three million “Europeans.” The South African Government advertises that its system is one of “separate development,” not discrimination, but, leaving aside the cases of outright opponents of discrimination,

Apartheid means:

- One African baby in four dies before he is a year old (only one white baby in 37 dies the first year)
- An average African can expect to live less than 40 years (the average white reaches 70)
- Africans may not work, live, or travel where they please. Every man and woman must be able to produce a “Pass” on demand—

  About 1,000 people per day are convicted of violation of the Pass Laws.

To understand the courage of those we shall help through Africa defense and aid fund, we must keep in mind the vicious system of racism against which they struggle.

South Africans fighting racism need help!

African slum

Scenes like this are still common, even though new African townships are being built as part of the attempt to give a new facade to the practice of segregation.

And a yard to play in

Regular playgrounds for African children are rare.

Free farm workers

Bars on the window of their living quarters—as well as pass laws and curfew—underscore the limits of “freedom” for “free” Africans.
THE FAMILIES OF SOUTH AFRICA'S HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS SUFFER...

CASE: In November, 1964, three African labor leaders, Mini, Nkela and Khayisa, were executed, leaving three widows and 13 children. "The children are in an absolutely desperate position. They have no decent clothing and are now without schooling." (Letter from South Africa)

In this case, $1,400 was raised in the U.S. by the Africa Defense and Aid Fund of the American Committee on Africa—enough to help for a few months.

CASE: When Jackson Mati was sent to jail for seven years, he left his six motherless children with their 70-year-old grandmother (her pension: $3.55 per month). Because there are so many similar cases, a sympathetic relief committee has had only powdered milk and soup to give her for the children.

There is no need to multiply the cases. All over South Africa, families are deprived of the breadwinner when he is jailed for opposing government-enforced racial discrimination. Because thousands are in jail at any given time, the needs for relief are overwhelming.

More than relief is needed, however. Adequate legal defense for those charged is even more important.

A good defense in court can bring acquittal. Failing that, it may mean a shorter sentence. In either case, the person charged—and his family—benefits. And we, on the outside, have done what we can to mitigate the injustices suffered under an unjust system.

CASE: James Chirwa, charged with "leaving the country for military training," was tried in secret, convicted, and given a long sentence. When the case came to light and an attorney appeared for Mr. Chirwa on appeal, his sentence was reduced by 8 years.

As South Africa has stepped up repression, an intricate pattern of apartheid law has evolved. Words used to title laws may not mean what they mean in other parts of the world. Thus, a person can be charged under the "Suppression of Communism Act" even though he is not, and never has been, connected with any interna-

ional Communist movement. And a person can be charged with "Sabotage" even though he has only painted a sign opposing discrimination (see picture).

BANNING: African Nationalist organizations have been made illegal: they have been "banned." When applied to an individual, banning means an order restricting him in specified ways. To break the ban is to risk jail.

CASE: John Molale, released after almost three months detention without charge, was served with banning orders in late 1963. The orders contained a clause forbidding this man in his sixties from entering factory premises. Not understanding that he was being banned from his job as a laborer, he returned to the factory, was arrested, and jailed. Soon after he came out of jail pending appeal, he died. Subsequently, his wife was served with banning orders.

CASE: Mrs. Schlager's banning order required her to report regularly at the police station. She forgot to report just once. Sentence: one year in jail, with 11 months suspended. On appeal, actual imprisonment was cut to seven days. Should she forget to report once again, she will be forced to abandon her two school children and serve the remaining 51 weeks.

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT SABOTAGE: Whites and Indians as well as Africans and Coloureds are frequently so charged.

CASE: Raymond Eisenstein, 27 years old, studying for an LL.B. and working as a reporter for the Rand Daily Mail (Johannesburg) at the time of his arrest. Born in the Warsaw ghetto, he was smuggled out and lived in hiding as a baby and a small boy. At his trial, his mother gave evidence in mitigation, saying that the Nazi terror had so affected him that he could not help being an opponent of injustice. Sentence: 7 years imprisonment.

CASE: Laloo Chiba, 34-year-old Indian truck-driver, married with three children. Convicted of conspiring with one other Indian, one African, and two whites to overthrow the state, he is now in jail for 18 years.

He alleged that, when detained earlier on a charge of which he was acquitted, he was beaten on the soles of his feet until he could barely walk; he was suspended upside down in a sack; and he was tortured with electric shocks. Finally, he was so savagely beaten that he is permanently deaf in one ear.

AND REFUGEES...

After years of struggle, arrests and threats of arrest, many flee South Africa. We must help these too—primarily by providing transport help from Bechuanaland northward to the independent African states.

the need

■ for legal defense of those who fight for human rights
■ for the families they leave when jailed or executed
■ for those who flee their homeland because of injustice

Is desperate!

As the South African Government tightens the screws on all opposition—and fear grows in the land—outside financial support becomes vital.

We Americans can express our unity with the South African struggle by giving to

AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND
of the American Committee on Africa

As Americans, ourselves involved in the struggle for interracial justice in the United States, we cannot afford to be less than generous to our allies in South Africa.
KEEPING WARM IN WINTER
This youngster is one of the poverty-stricken Indians around the port city of Durban. The cover photo shows her hunger.

AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND
211 East 43rd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

I enclose $.................. for aid to South Africans suffering in their struggle for justice
I pledge $............... to be paid □ monthly □ quarterly or on ..............(date)

Kindly make checks payable to:
AFRICA DEFENSE AND AID FUND
(Mr.)
(Mrs.)
(Miss)

Address ____________________________

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□ Please send ................. folders for my use in soliciting others.

AfricA Defense and Aid Fund
of the American Committee on Africa
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