South Africa is one of the most beautiful and prosperous lands on earth, where some three and a half million Whites enjoy the third highest standard of living in the world. Despite this, more than thirteen million men, women and children who lack this "precious" white skin suffer poverty, disenfranchisement, disease and early death -- in the name of "white supremacy." To revolt -- or even to protest actively -- can mean years in prison, life imprisonment, or even execution. The political prisoners of South Africa are now estimated to number 8,500, with thousands of dependents deprived of the family breadwinner.

The American Committee on Africa, through its Africa Defense and Aid Fund, for years has tried to alleviate the sufferings of these heroic "resisters" in two ways:

1. By providing legal defense for them, when accused of "crimes" under apartheid law;
2. By furnishing school fees, food and rent money, etc., to their destitute families.

The following communication reached us on January 25, 1966, from the Defense and Aid Fund in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, to which we have lately sent considerable sums. There are 300 families of political prisoners in that area alone, with over 2,000 children greatly in need of help. The secretary writes:

"I am often asked why these people we assist should merit more care than the many in distress in other parts of the world. But these are the families of men and women who have had the guts and tenacity to struggle for their rights against tremendous odds and against a powerful and astute government -- most of them, by methods so civilized that their patience is to be wondered at. They have little or no sympathy from within South Africa. Those who might be sympathetic are much too frightened to help -- even giving their cast-off clothing to these families has dire political implications. This white fear of involvement has become a neurosis. Even church committees and Christian women's groups prefer to hide their eyes......

"There are 734 non-Whites from our town alone (Port Elizabeth) whom our Fund has defended in court trials. There are thousands of children in the African "locations" with no other means of support except our Aid group. Some children and babies are literally dying of starvation or are very ill from malnutrition. There are state social services in this town, but their doors are closed to the families of political prisoners.

"This is an example of the plight of the families we try to help: Mrs. Muriel Msila's husband is in prison. She herself is an invalid and has five children, aged from two to fourteen years old. She cannot work and has no means of support. We give her small amounts of soup and milk powder, pay her rent and help her with medical expenses. None of her children go to school as she cannot afford the books they have to have: school fees and books (paid only by non-Whites) total about $17.00 per child per year.

"The American Committee on Africa has done much to alleviate this additional affliction among people who already endure so much. Without them and people like them, these people would starve to death."

"WON'T YOU HELP US KEEP THESE "RESISTERS" ALIVE ?

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