OCTOBER 10 NATIONAL PROTEST DAY TO TARGET SOUTH AFRICA INVESTMENT

N.Y., N.Y., September 29... On October 10 thousands of demonstrators nationwide will be participating in a National Protest Day for South African Divestment and Sanctions on dozens of campuses and in numerous communities. The day has been targeted to link up with the International Day in Solidarity with Southern African Political prisoners, October 11th, during which there will also be rallies in opposition to continued U.S. ties to South Africa.

The American Committee on Africa (ACOA) initiated the mobilization along with fifty campus groups at a national strategy meeting this June. According to ACOA national student coordinator, Joshua Nessen, "The protests on October 10 and 11th will continue to put pressure on all U.S. corporations and other institutions to sever their links with South Africa. In addition to campus divestment demonstrations, the Reagan Administration's policy of 'constructive engagement' and corporate complicity will be challenged through community-based actions in Albany, Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Nashville, New York, Phoenix, Portland, Seattle and Washington D.C."

In Washington DC the DC Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism with the support of TransAfrica and other organizations will be organizing a march on October 10 beginning at noon at the U.S. Circle (Foggy Bottom Metro station) and ending with a rally opposite the White House calling for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa and an end to U.S. support for the South Africa-backed UNITA group in Angola. That same day European anti-apartheid groups will also be opposing U.S. arms supplies to UNITA through rallies outside American embassies. While community and student groups will be rallying outside the New York Stock Exchange from 12:30 to 2pm (Broad and Wall Streets) calling for an end to all U.S. investment in South Africa.
Campus groups in all regions of the country will emphasize their solidarity with victims of apartheid by wearing black armbands October 10 and constructing shanties. At the University of Utah in Salt Lake City students will be maintaining their shanty following a Federal Court decision this August enjoining the campus administration from demolishing shanties which were characterized as symbolic expressions of free speech. At the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor students will also be reconstructing their shanty on October 10 in the course of surrounding the Administration building and calling for complete divestment. The Keene College anti-apartheid coalition in New Hampshire will also be erecting a shanty during a noon-time rally that day, and students at Texas Christian University will be placing shanties in front of the Student Union at an 11:30 divestment rally.

The University of Houston will be the site of shanty construction in the course of a South Africa Awareness Week from October 6-10 during which TransAfrica head Randall Robinson will be a featured speaker. While at the University of Texas in Austin, where 225 students were arrested in divestment protests this April, October 10 is also being targeted for a protest against the university's $770 million linked to South Africa through U.S. corporations and banks.

In Nashville students from Vanderbilt will join up with a march from Fisk and Tennessee State Universities that will culminate in a 4pm rally at the Legislative Plaza calling for state divestment and opposing the state plan to transform Tennessee State from an all-Black school to one that would be 61% white. Elsewhere in the South there will be protests October 10 at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida International University in Miami, University of Virginia in Charlottesville (2:30pm march and 4pm rally) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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On October 10 there will also be a noon-time rally in Atlanta outside Coca-Cola's headquarters calling on the company to sever its licensing and trademark ties to South Africa as well as ending formal ownership of plants and franchises in that country.

At Yale University, where 23 students were arrested in a sit-in on September 22, the divestment coalition will hold a protest October 10 and there will also be actions at schools in the Philadelphia area including the University of Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore. The New England Students Against Apartheid encompassing student groups at Harvard, Tufts, MIT, Brandeis, and BU will be holding a city-wide rally and candelight vigil on October 9 at Boston University, where the Administration has taken a very hard line against divestment protesters. Penn State University students earlier protested a campus appearance by White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan on September 13 and will also be rallying on October 10 as will students at Princeton, Dartmouth, Hamilton and Smith.

In the midwest students at the University of Wisconsin will be kicking off the Fall semester with a protest October 10 targeting the Legislature and corporations involved in South Africa with offices in downtown Madison. In Chicago, the six city colleges will join in an anti-apartheid rally on that day and at Northwestern, where shantytown protesters were acquitted this month, there will be a protest against the school's $167 million in South Africa linked holdings. Actions are also planned at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Toledo University, Bowling Green, and in Kalamazoo on the 10th. On October 10-11 the Northeast Ohio Anti-Apartheid Coalition will host a Conference on the Shell Oil Boycott, involving United Mine Worker officials. While in downtown Minneapolis, an anti-apartheid coalition with strong union backing will rally for state divestment and the release of South African and Namibian political prisoners on October 11.

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That day the Los Angeles Free South Africa Movement will be holding a march for sanctions beginning at 11am at Riemert Park, and at 2:30pm there will be rally in San Diego featuring Vusi Shangase of the African National Congress. The anti-apartheid coalition in Portland, Oregon has also chosen October 11 to hold a noon rally for state divestment opposite City Hall as has the Arizona Coalition Against Apartheid which will call for total economic sanctions against South Africa and the release of Nelson Mandela at a picket line beginning at 10am outside the Federal Building in Phoenix. On October 10 pickets and rallies in downtown Honolulu and Seattle will also highlight opposition to the Reagan Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa while pressing for state divestment measures.