Religious Action Network

Catholic Archbishop Stephen Naidoo, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Reformed Church Reverend Allan Boesak on their protest march to South African Parliament

FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

a project of the american committee on africa
WHY

The religious community in South Africa is under attack. Church leaders have been mysteriously murdered. Others have been detained and tortured. In December last year one church field worker, Tom Manthata, was convicted of treason and given a heavy sentence for his work.

Many funeral services have been banned and armed policemen posted at the doors of some churches.

Fourteen heads of denominations, including Roman Catholic Archbishop Stephen Naidoo, Anglican Prelate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Reformed Church leader Allan Boesak and South African Council of Churches General Secretary Frank Chikane were assaulted with water cannons and arrested while leading a peaceful protest march to the South African Parliament.

Khotso House, the headquarters of the South African Council of churches, was bombed in the middle of the night. A few weeks later, Khanya House, headquarters of the South African Catholic Bishops Conference was set on fire.

As they respond to these assaults, South African church leaders have appealed for support and solidarity from their sisters and brothers in the United States. They have called on the religious community in this country to stand together with them in their struggle for justice.

This sweeping attack on the church is part of the apartheid state's intensifying assault on all the democratic forces struggling for freedom in South Africa. Many organizations have been banned — all their political activities frozen and their leaders jailed. Opposition, from the liberation movements to community organizations, has been banned. Newspapers have been shut down. South Africa's religious community has now stepped into the frontline of the fight for freedom. Long a witness to the suffering of their parishioners, the religious community has now been pressed to speak out and act strongly against the bannings, detentions and fundamental injustice of the apartheid system.
Khotso House “House of Peace” Bombed August, 1988

WHAT YOU CAN DO

• **Support the call for the isolation of apartheid South Africa**
  Rev. Frank Chikane has said that comprehensive sanctions are “the only way to effect change in South Africa with minimum violence.” We must support his call and work for sanctions and economic isolation at the local, state and national level.

• **Protest detentions and jailing of religious leaders and all other opponents of apartheid**
  Hundreds of people in the religious community have been jailed without charge, tortured and in some cases even killed. Thousands of South Africans are still imprisoned for the simple crime of demanding political rights in the land of their birth. Send your demands that South Africa free all detainees and political prisoners to the South African Ambassador. Join the Religious Action Network and campaign for freedom for all detainees and political prisoners.

• **Send prayers and messages of solidarity**
  The South African people need our spiritual and moral support. Offer prayers and sermons for the victims of apartheid during worship services. Send letters and messages of solidarity to the Religious Action Network and we will send them to South Africa.
The time has come. The moment of truth has arrived. South Africa has been plunged into a crisis that is shaking the foundations and there is every indication that the crisis has only just begun and that it will deepen and become even more threatening in the months to come. It is the KAIROS or moment of truth not only for apartheid but for the Church.

— From the Kairos Document
a theological reflection of justice and truth
issued by 150 leading South African theologians

Write for more information.

YES, I am ready to heed the call from our brothers and sisters in southern Africa. Send me information on the Religious Action Network.

Name/Title ____________________________

Congregation __________________________

Address _______________________________

City/State/Zip __________________________

Telephone ______________________________

Mail to: Religious Action Network/ACOA
198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038
Religious Action Network

The Religious Action Network is an effort to link Christian, Jewish and Muslim congregations, to end South Africa's brutal system of apartheid. This network was launched by Revs. Wyatt Walker, Fred Williams, M. William Howard and the American Committee on Africa, a national organization that campaigns for justice and freedom in southern Africa. Since it was formed in 1953, ACOA has worked closely with the religious community.

In the last few years, as the situation in South Africa has changed, religious leaders from southern Africa have called out for more actions in support of their efforts.

Steering Committee (in formation):

Chairman — Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker
   Canaan Baptist Church, New York

Vice-Chairman — Rev. Frederick Williams
   Church of the Intercession, New York

Rev. M. William Howard
   American Committee on Africa

Jennifer Davis
   American Committee on Africa.

Write for more information to:

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