A campaign
initiated by
The Africa Fund.

Bill Cosby
Honorary Chairman

Dumisani S. Kumalo
Coordinator

February 1989

ACTION ALERT
DETAINED TO DEATH:

DETAINNEES ISSUE REMAINS UNRESOLVED

Detention continues to be a central weapon of apartheid's repression, allowing
the state to punish or remove from the community any political opponent without
even the pretense of producing evidence of illegal activity. Under South African
law detainees can be held in total isolation without contact with the world
outside the prison walls – no lawyer, no family not even a phone call. Both
deliberate torture and daily brutality are well documented common practices. Of
the 32,000 people detained since The State of Emergency was imposed in June 1986
45% were reportedly between the ages of 13-18.

Equally disturbing is the fact that the few detainees who are "released" are
invariably placed under such severe restrictions that they are in effect still
in detention in their own homes. They are banned from any political activities,
sometimes their jobs and in most cases are denied right to free movement in
their own towns and from even speaking to more than ten people at a time.

The recent HUNGER STRIKE started by the detainee prison population in South
Africa represented the growing determination of the South African people's
efforts towards ending one of apartheid's most vicious forms of control. In
protest of this issue, members of the anti-apartheid movement in South
Africa have designated March 12th National Detainees Day, and have called for a
day of international action and solidarity with the detainees. We encourage you
to keep pressure on the South African Government to end this injustice. Sympathy
fasts and petitions drives are being planned across the United States. Make
March 12th a national day of protest and solidarity with the detainees' community.

* We urge you to write to or cable the South African Government, and demand
the UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL DETAINEES IMMEDIATELY. Send your demands to:

WRITE: President P.W. Botha
State Presidents Office
Private Bag x213
Pretoria, 0001
South Africa

Mr. Adriaan Vlok
Minister of Law and Order
Private Bag X463
Pretoria 0001
South Africa

TELEGRAMS: President Botha
Pretoria, South Africa

Adriaan Vlok, Pretoria
South Africa

TELEX: 3-21695
or 3-21890
or 3-22158

The Africa Fund, 198 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10038 (212) 962-1210

Tilden J. LeMelle
Chairman

Jennifer Davis
Executive Director
ALMOST 300 emergency detainees, mostly in Durban and surrounding areas, are vowing to cripple the Government’s system of detention without trial by going on a renewed hunger strike.

This has come despite the announcement by Minister of Law and Order Mr Adriaan Vlok that more than 20 detainees would be freed each day for the next two weeks. Sun Star 19.2.89

South African lawyers, unionists, academics and human rights campaigners were joined on Friday by overseas union leaders who pledged to focus international attention on detention without trial until all security detainees were released.

The three-week hunger strike which began at Johannesburg’s Diepkloof Prison involving about 250 detainees, including 105 at Port Elizabeth’s St Alban’s Prison, ended this week following a promise by Mr Vlok that their cases would be reviewed.

The detainees have suspended their strike for two weeks during which period they will assess the Minister’s promise to release or charge emergency detainees.

The announcement by hunger strikers in Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth to suspend the strike had no effect on scores in other prisons.

According to lawyers, 110 emergency detainees in Maritzburg joined 112 hunger strikers at Westville Prison on Friday. Lawyer Mr Saloshni Moodley confirmed that detainees at Mayville, Molweni, Brighton Beach and CR Swart Square authorised detainee representatives and allowed detainees to be visited by doctors of their choice.

In East London, detainees at Fort Glamorgan prison went on a hunger strike this weekend, said police spokesman Colonel G van Rooyen.

The Johannesburg-based Human Rights Commission said: "The hunger strike continues countrywide, although it has been suspended at Diepkloof Prison.

On Thursday, lawyers from the National Association of Democratic lawyers, Lawyers for Human Rights, and law lecturers called for the release of all security detainees, and supported the campaign.

Tilden J. LeMelle Chairman

Jennifer Davis
Executive Director