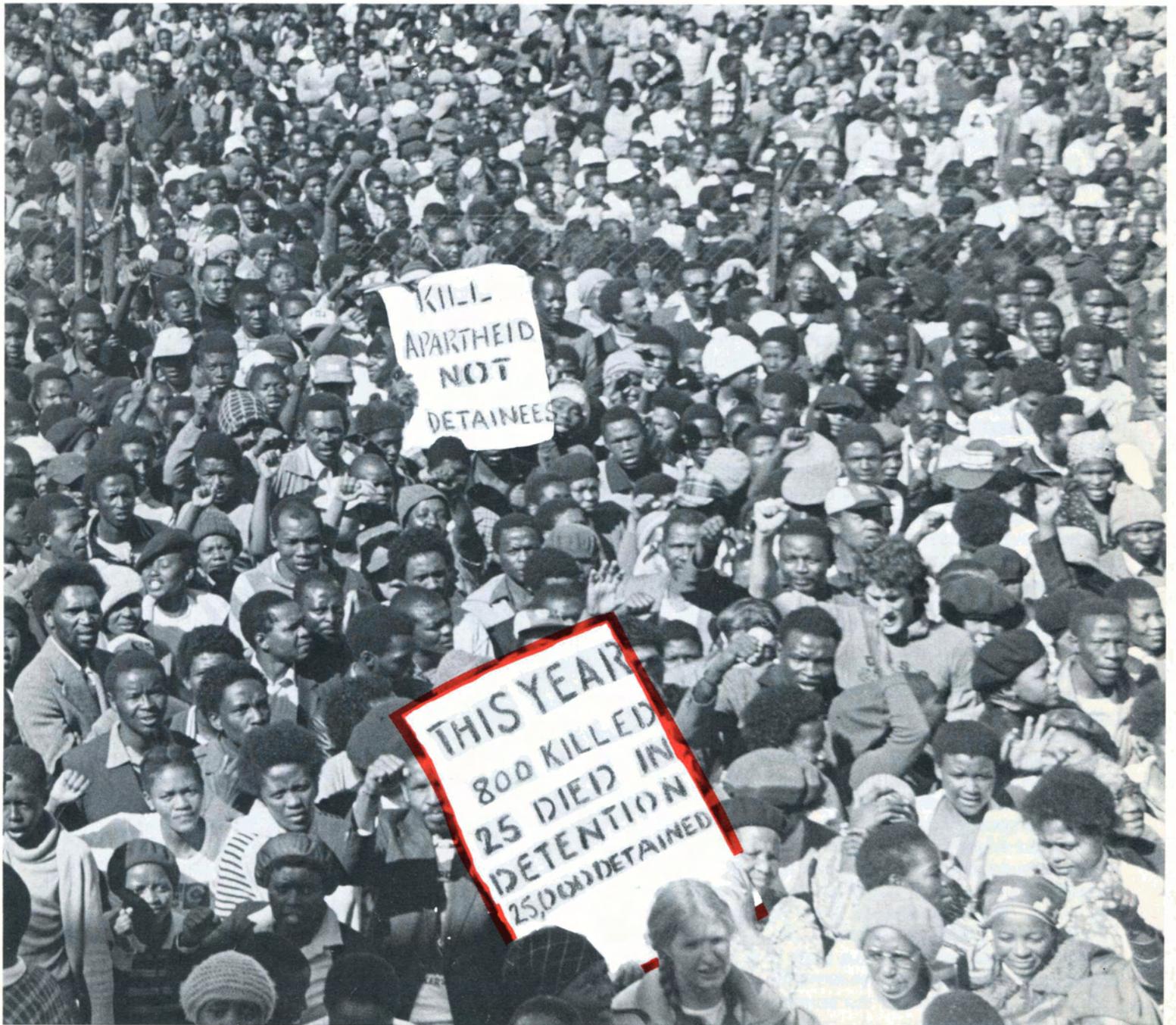




FREE ALL APARTHEID'S DETAINEES



FREE ALL APARTHEID

SATIS (Southern Africa the Imprisoned Society) is appealing for a major renewed campaign for the release of the thousands of men, women and children who are currently languishing in detention in South Africa and Namibia.

SATIS brings together a series of British organisations in concerted campaigning for the release of apartheid's political prisoners and to protest against all aspects of apartheid repression; it was established on 10th December 1973 — UN Human Rights Day and the anniversary of the massacre of Katutura in Namibia. It is convened by the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

The need for the campaign to Free All Apartheid Detainees to be intensified is a matter of the utmost urgency; the effectiveness of co-ordinated international action should never be underestimated.

Who is being detained?

More than 20,000 people have been detained in South Africa since the declaration of the State of Emergency on June 12th 1986 and unknown numbers in Namibia where the veil of secrecy surrounding the activities of the South African army of occupation is allowing it to commit acts of atrocity against the Namibian people with impunity.

Detainees come from all walks of life. Activists from a wide range of organisations including trade unions, churches and other religious groups, women's groups, students, community and civic organisations have been arrested as the regime attempts to paralyse organised resistance to apartheid by bodies such as the UDF, COSATU, AZAPO, youth and student movements.

A special target has been the youth of South Africa. Nearly half of all detainees are under 21 years of age and another fifth between 21 and 25. The regime has used the Emergency to try and break the nationwide resistance to apartheid education. Schools have been occupied by the police and army and more than 8000 children have been detained, some as young as 9 years old.

Powers of Detention

In Namibia what amounts to a State of Emergency has been in force since the early 1970s over most of the country; the territory is illegally occupied by South Africa which maintains a garrison state with an army of occupation of



more than 100,000 South African troops. To back up South African security legislation even more repressive powers have been imposed through special Proclamations by the South African-appointed Administrator General.

The two main Proclamations in Namibia are AG9 — the Security Districts Proclamation under which the north of the country has been sealed off. This Proclamation also gives powers to detain for the purpose of interrogation. Proclamation AG26 enables the authorities to enforce preventive detention.

South African security legislation dating from the 1950s and 1960s continues in force and provides the backbone to the regime's powers of detention. The main powers are set out in the next section.

The South African military forces have set up secret detention centres throughout the so-called operational area in the north of Namibia; a strict curfew is enforced and regular round-ups of SWAPO activists occur. The military and police do not even themselves maintain a full record of detainees and little if any information reaches the outside world.

The most draconian State of Emergency in South African history was declared on 12th June 1986. In the early hours of the morning of the 12th June thousands of people were detained in a nation-wide search oper-

ation. Detention has continued unabated since then although many key activists escaped detention by going 'underground'. The State of Emergency has effectively extended the powers of the police to the military while at the same time introducing a battery of new measures; these enable the authorities to detain anyone engaged in protest against apartheid.

The authorities' object is to suppress the nationwide resistance that has erupted across the country in the last two years.

In South Africa under the Internal Security Act which came into force in 1982, crystallising and extending existing repressive legislation, there are several different kinds of powers of detention without trial:

Section 28: allows for what is described as preventive detention initially for up to 6 months, which is renewable indefinitely.

Section 29: allows for indefinite detention for purposes of interrogation — i.e. until the authorities are satisfied that no further purpose 'will be served by continued detention'. The police do not have to disclose the names of those detained.

Section 31 allows the regime to detain people they wish to use as state witnesses. Such detainees can be held until the end of the particular trial, provided the trial begins within six months of the date of detention.

Section 50: This section is designed for dealing with 'situations of unrest' — people can be held for up to 14 days. It has been extensively used during the last two years when the country has been under successive States of Emergency.

The **State of Emergency Regulations:** Special powers were introduced under State of Emergency Regulations which allow for the detention of people incommunicado for 14 days, a period which can be extended indefinitely until the end of the State of Emergency without reasons being given. People detained under the regulations can be interrogated. It is illegal to reveal the names of detainees unless authorisation by the Government is given.

At the same time as imposing the State of Emergency P W Botha forced through the racial parliament further powers as follows:

Internal Security Act (Section 50A): This new amendment allows for a per-

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son to be detained for up to 180 days by any police officer of the rank of lieutenant-colonel or upwards if in his opinion the detention would 'contribute to the termination, combating or prevention of public disturbance, riot, or public violence' i.e. anyone protesting against apartheid.

Public Safety Amendment Act: This enables the authorities to use emergency powers in particular districts without having to formally declare a State of Emergency; this effectively means that even after the lifting of the Emergency the regime will be able to continue repression on the same scale using these new powers.

Beyond these powers further measures allowing for detention have been implemented in the 'independent' Bantustans, Venda, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana and Transkei to attempt to suppress popular resistance to the Bantustan system.

Conditions of Detention

Detentions are shrouded in secrecy, every effort is made to prevent both people inside South Africa and Namibia and in the outside world from knowing who is in detention and the conditions in which they are held. This secrecy allows the regime to act with impunity. For example, during the State of Emergency in 1985-86 89% of

detainees were assaulted and tortured.

The authorities provide no details of where detainees are held, only rarely are families aware of relatives' whereabouts; detainees are often moved around from prison to prison placing an added burden on families.

Despite the secrecy in which detainees are held, accentuated by the media and information censorship imposed under the Emergency, extensive information has emerged of the terrible treatment of detainees under apartheid. Solitary confinement, severe beatings, electric shock treatment, sjamboking and execution threats are routine against all detainees including children.

As the brutal murder of Steve Biko exposed, deaths at the hands of the torturers is a common phenomenon in apartheid's gaols; more than 80 people have died in detention since 1963 (the year detention without trial was introduced); these deaths are often officially described as 'suicide' or 'falling downstairs'. Sipho Mutsi, an 18-year old student died three days after being detained in May 1985. Doctors found he had extensive injuries and whip marks on his head, back and shoulders. Veteran apartheid opponent, Peter Nchabeleng of the UDF died just hours after being detained on 11th April 1986. Xoluso Jacobs died after 133 days in detention in October 1986, the seventh person this year.

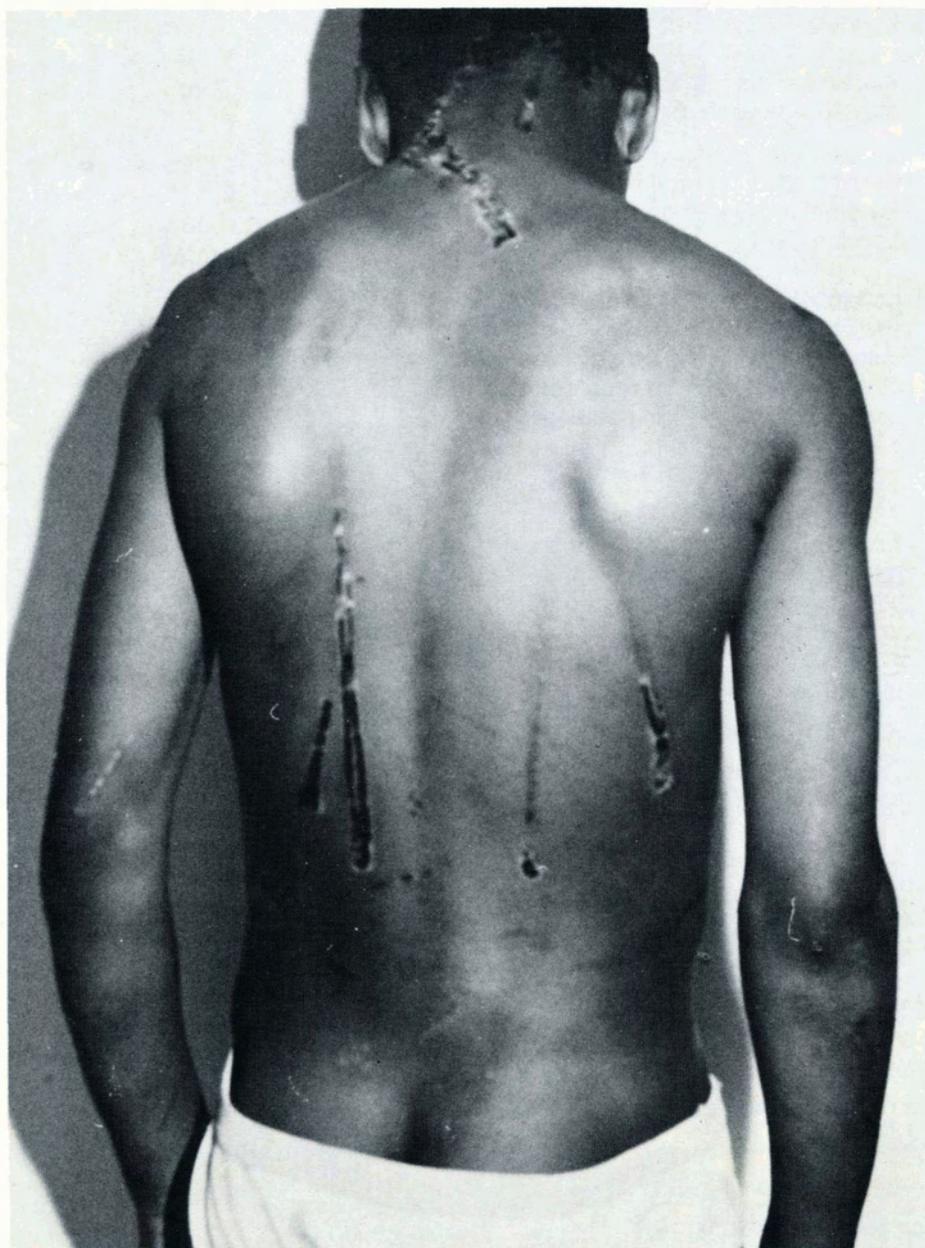
Resistance to Detention

Detentions without trial have provoked growing resistance in Namibia and South Africa, both inside and outside the prison cells.

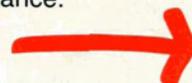
Protest actions including strike action by trade unionists and other popular campaigns have been backed up by challenges to detention in the courts and the work of monitoring organisations such as the Detainees Parents Support Committee who have risked legal reprisals in publicising the grave situation facing detainees.

Inside the prison cells detainees have organised themselves by a range of protest actions including hunger strikes; these have been brutally repressed, sometimes with tear gas attacks on detainees.

It is by organising massive protests internationally that we can mobilise support for this resistance.



Young victim of sjamboking following interrogation during detention in 1986



The South African authorities have deliberately imposed a rigid censorship and an overall cloud of secrecy to prevent the world knowing who is in detention and why. The essential target of the campaign to 'Free all Apartheid Detainees' is to secure massive publicity in Britain and internationally for the grave situation facing detainees and then to transform the interest aroused into effective action to free all detainees. Such actions should be directed firstly at the South African authorities themselves but also at the British Government either by direct representation or via your MP or a combination of both. Actions can also be directed at relevant organisations e.g. British professional bodies taking up the cases of members of their profession in South Africa and Namibia.

Letters, messages, petitions and acts of protest directed at the South African authorities making them more aware of the massive public anger against their actions are the most essential part of the campaign. Evidence from former detainees clearly demonstrates the positive effect well organised international campaigns have in highlighting the plight of detainees and thus helping to secure their release.

In order to intensify this action SATIS is organising with a twofold approach:

★ **A general campaign** which calls for the release of all detainees and produces information and campaigning guidance on detention under apartheid

★ **Targetted actions** encouraging organisations to concentrate on the release of groups and individual detainees with whom they have a particular interest or connection as a focus to the campaigns.

General Campaign

A briefing document on the General Campaign is available on request from SATIS. Below are some of the key points:

Publicity: The aim is to secure maximum publicity for the situation facing detainees. Try and use any avenues available e.g. letters to the local and national press, local radio phone-in programmes, articles in trade union, church, student and other magazines and newsletters etc.

Action

Protest letters to the South African authorities should be sent to:

President P W Botha
Union Buildings
PRETORIA 0001
South Africa

The South African Ambassador
South Africa House
Trafalgar Square
London WC2

Appeals to the British Government urging it to intervene should be sent to:

Sir Geoffrey Howe
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1

Letters of protest should also be sent to your MP urging him/her to take up this issue and to put pressure on the British Government by direct representations or raising the matter in parliament.

Targetted Actions

SATIS has compiled a list of many thousands of detainees with limited information, including the organisation to which they belong (i.e. students

trade unionists) and the area of South Africa or Namibia where they are based.

Detailed information about most detainees is difficult to obtain. SATIS's experience with solidarity campaigning has shown that 'adoption' schemes which have been used with great effect in other human rights campaigns are not appropriate in the Southern Africa situation.

SATIS compiles and maintains lists containing as much information as possible. This information can enable organisations to focus on detainees with whom they share a common bond, i.e. trade unionists, women, students and below are listed some of the groups for whom information is available.

A briefing document on Targetted Action is also available.

SATIS has produced a Detainees Postcard, on which the name(s) of detainees can be entered and sent to the apartheid authorities; this postcard contains a protest message.

Donations

The Campaign to Free All Apartheid Detainees is in urgent need of donations and funds which are primarily used for producing publicity and mobilising pressure for the release of detainees. Please send what you can afford to SATIS.

The London based International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa was founded to provide assistance to the victims of apartheid, in particular political prisoners and detainees as well as their families and dependents. Donations are most welcome and should be sent to IDAF's British Committee, British Defence and Aid Fund, (BDAF), Canon Collins House, 64 Essex Road, London N1.

I want to support the SATIS Campaign to Free All Apartheid Detainees.

I/we want to receive: (please tick appropriate boxes)

Information/campaign briefing on the SATIS General Campaign

Information/campaign briefing on Targetted Actions and the following group(s) of detainees:

Trade Unionists (please indicate which union(s)) _____

Students/Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Children	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lawyers/Health Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religious Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teachers/Academics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Journalists	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please send copies of the SATIS Detainees Postcard (10p each)

SATIS has a Mailing Action Scheme which supplies campaigning information to subscribers (£5 per year)

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANISATION (if appropriate)

I/we enclose £..... (£..... donation) and £5 subscription to SATIS Action

Please return to SATIS c/o Anti-Apartheid Movement, 13 Mandela Street, London NW1 0DW. Price 10p

SATIS (Southern Africa - The Imprisoned Society) draws together representatives from *Alliance of Radical Methodists, Anti-Apartheid Movement, British Defence and Aid Fund, COSAWR, Haldane Society, International Defence and Aid Fund, Liberation, National League of Young Liberals, National Union of Students, Namibian Support Committee, Pax Christi, Society of Black Lawyers, TASS, UNA Youth Council.*