

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT OF HULL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION

Hermann Ja Toiva has just been appointed as Honorary Vice-President of this Union.

Hermann Ja Toiva, a Namibian teacher and regional secretary of SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation) was ~~charged~~ charged, with 35 others after a year in detention, under the retro-active Terrorism Act (1967) which was passed specially for the case. The trial lasted from August, 1967 to February, 1968 and in the end Hermann Ja Toiva was sentenced to twenty years on Robben Island for working for the freedom of his country.

Since then the Security Council of the United Nations and the General Assembly have repeatedly called on South Africa to end the illegal detention of these Namibians and repatriate them.

This Union is now in the second year of a campaign for the divestment of University shares in Reckitt & Colman, an international firm with wide investments in South Africa. By making Hermann Ja Toiva Honorary Vice-President of this Union it is hoped that we can bring to the notice of many more people the true meaning of Apartheid and show our solidarity with those who are suffering under the South African racist regime and give them moral support.

Wilfred Brutus, an escaped S. African political prisoner, was asked for his opinion on this move and he said:

"While on Robben Island, I was made Honorary President of Copenhagen University and knowing that there were people who knew and cared about the suffering of those in South Africa had a wonderful effect on my morale and that of my family and fellow prisoners. Those on Robben Island suffer the most dreadful degradation and tortures and I applaud any move to make the horrors I have seen, public knowledge".

This move is also made in support of the petition to make Hermann Ja Toiva Honorary Vice-President of the National Union of Students and the national call for other Universities and Colleges to take similar action.

As President of this Union, I wish to send my warmest congratulations to Hermann Ja Toiva on his appointment and hope that he will soon be released from Robben Island to be reunited with his family and his people in a society that is no longer suffering under apartheid.



T.E. SHARP  
President of Union

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