

# BLACK SOLIDARITY

WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA



Photo: IDAF

# CALL TO ACTION!

## What is Apartheid?

The Apartheid System in South Africa and Namibia is a **crime against humanity** and is the worst form of **legalised racism** in the world.

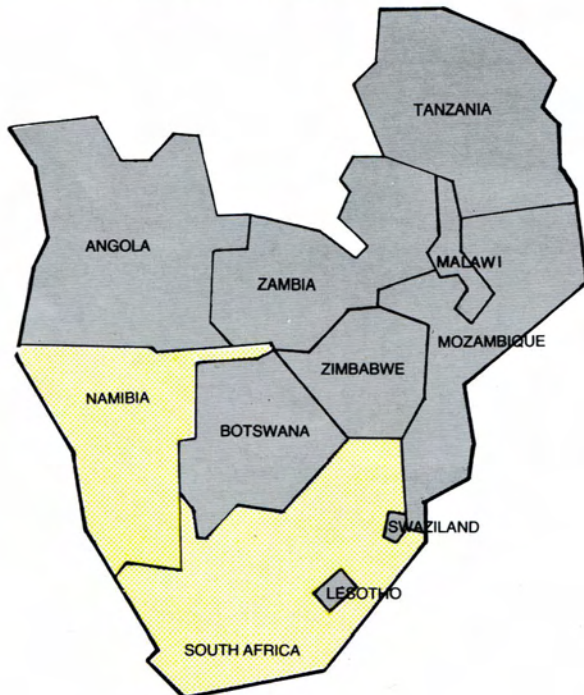
This institutionalised racism is committed by a small minority of the population who are **white**, against the vast majority who are **black**. The oppressors are in fact the newcomers to these countries, while their victims are the indigenous people. That is to say, the immigrants have the **state power**, and are the exploiters and oppressors.

### Imagine that happening in Britain!

Namibia is a colony of the Apartheid regime of South Africa, and the regime operates open **state terrorism over the people**.

More recently, the racists have destabilised, invaded, and carried out **military attacks** against the neighbouring **Frontline States** i.e. **Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and Tanzania**, as well as **Lesotho and Swaziland**, and wreaked havoc, destruction and millions of deaths, including children, women, the elderly and the sick.

### ***Apartheid must be defeated!***



## Racism, oppression and exploitation

**1.** Following the notorious 'voyages of discovery' by European travellers, white people first traded with, then settled in, and finally colonised South Africa. The process culminated with the **British sell-out** of 1910, handing over the country to their small kith-and-kin white minority, who proceeded to establish the obnoxious Apartheid System.

**2.** The white population has grown to over 5 million, ruling and exploiting over 28 million Black people, in a vast country endowed with gold, diamonds, coal and other resources; on top of a superb climate.

**3.** South Africa is the only **industrially** developed economy in Africa, exporting many manufactured products; and has a huge working class. Multinational companies make super-profits, and are blind to the suffering of the exploited workers and their families.

**4.** While the whites enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world, the great majority of blacks live in poverty and squalor, and have no democratic rights. Racism is their daily curse.

***This is the reality in Apartheid South Africa!***



## The fight for people's power

The South Africans have always resisted foreign aggression, colonisation, oppression and exploitation. They hate and resist racism and apartheid.

The **African National Congress (ANC)** was formed on 8 January 1912 and has since assumed the unchallenged leadership of the struggle for national liberation. It is the people's movement and is inseparable from the people. Its programme, the **Freedom Charter**, represents the aspirations of the overwhelming majority of South Africans as a basic political statement. The 1950s witnessed mass resistance by the people, particularly the working class, and popular uprisings culminating in the Sharpeville shooting of 21 March 1960. Soon after, the ANC was banned. To counter the heightened repression and strike back at the racist military forces the ANC's armed wing **Umkhonto we Sizwe** was launched on 16 December 1961.

The inspiring record of militancy of the ANC Youth League in the 1940s, and of its now-famous leaders Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo and Walter Sisulu, fired later generations, and it was the youth of Soweto who took to the streets in 1976 in yet another popular uprising — drowned in blood by the racist regime. Today the **South African Youth Congress (SAYCO)** carries the banner of youth in the forefront of the struggle.

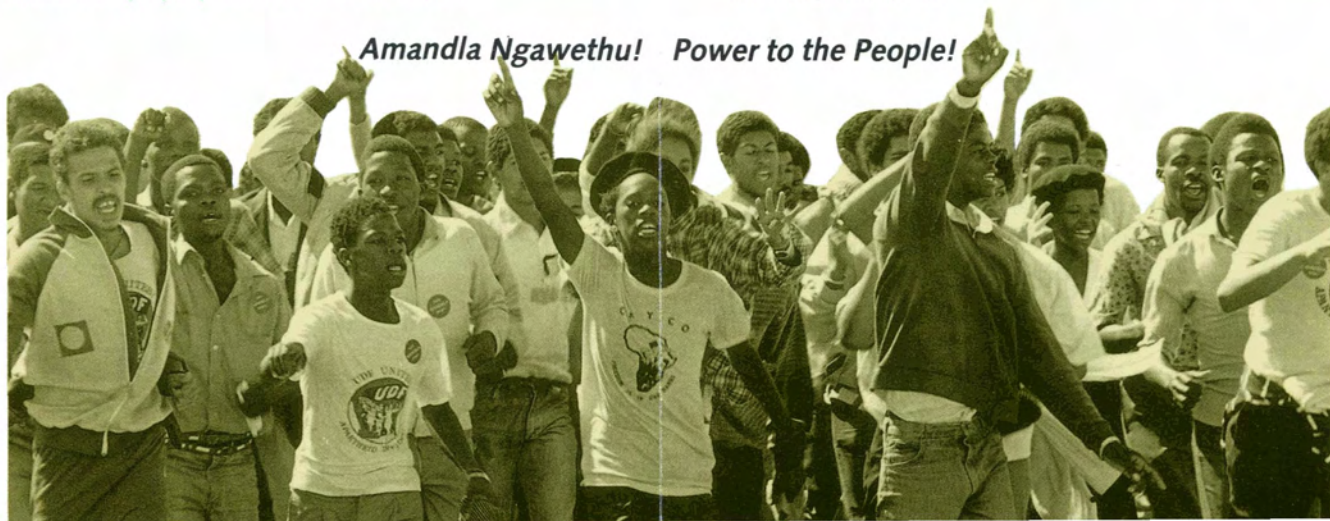
South African women have always played a prominent and leading role in the struggle for liberation and democracy, and the **ANC Women's Section** ensures that women's rights and interests are properly observed and developed.

Closely allied with the ANC, the **South African Congress of Trade Unions** was all but banned by the regime in the early 1960s, but has continued to play a leading role in developing the trade union movement as an integral part of the liberation struggle. The formation in November 1985 of the **Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)** marked the birth of the biggest trade union centre in South Africa's history — it now powerfully unites and leads the struggles of millions of workers against apartheid exploitation.

The formation in August 1983 of the **United Democratic Front (UDF)** raised to a new height the mass democratic resistance, coordinating it nationally in an outstanding campaign against the regime's cosmetic constitutional 'reforms'. This panicked the regime into imposing a State of Emergency in June 1986 and virtually banning the UDF and 17 other organisations in February 1988. Since then, leaders of churches, mosques and other religious organisations have stood up to voice the people's demands and confront the illegitimate Botha government.

Despite the detention and torture of many thousands, even children, the severe media bans, and other forms of repression, the regime has failed to crush the people's resistance. It has suffered growing international isolation, military defeats in southern Angola and deep economic crisis — whilst more and more South Africans visit the ANC, seeking its political guidance and a way out of the apartheid crisis. Only the transfer of power to the people, under the leadership of the ANC, can bring freedom to South Africa and peace to Southern Africa as a whole.

***Amandla Ngawethu! Power to the People!***



## THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

**The Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) was founded in 1959, following a call to action against apartheid by Chief Albert Luthuli, then President of the African National Congress. He initiated the world-wide boycott of South African goods — cornerstone of the strategy of isolating apartheid South Africa.**

**Today the AAM is the national leader and co-ordinator of solidarity in Britain with the people of Southern Africa. Internationally it is the oldest and foremost movement against apartheid — with influence way beyond Britain and Europe.**

**The Anti-Apartheid Movement has over 15,000 national members, plus many thousands of local members linked to its 200 Local Groups. Around 1,000 organisations are affiliated to the AAM — from some of the biggest trade unions to small community organisations and church groups.**

**It was the AAM that organised the wonderful Wembley concert on 11 June 1988 in tribute to Nelson Mandela — and the huge rally of 250,000 people in Hyde Park on the eve of Mandela's 70th birthday.**

**The AAM is the main source of the vital information, ideas, contacts and materials needed for campaigns. It also provides invaluable support to groups and organisations undertaking independent solidarity activity. In a word, the AAM is central to the British challenge to apartheid.**



# BLACK SOLIDARITY – A CALL TO ACTION!

**The special affinity between the victims of British racism and their brothers and sisters living under apartheid in Southern Africa creates a particular responsibility and need for the Black and Ethnic Minority people here to be in the forefront of anti-apartheid work. The Anti-Apartheid Movement recognises that at this crucial stage of the liberation struggle, this should happen NOW! . . . TODAY!**

**That is why the Anti-Apartheid Movement, with the support of both SWAPO and the ANC, is seeking to ensure that the position and role of Black people and Ethnic Minorities in solidarity activity — both within the Movement and autonomously — should be greatly increased. As an individual, or as an organisation, the first step is to join the Anti-Apartheid Movement.**



## **Brothers and Sisters!**

Come on and *get involved* in **BLACK SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA** — c/o AAM, 13 Mandela St, London NW1 0DW.

**AAM Membership rates:** Individuals **£10** p.a.; 2 people living at the same address **£13**; students **£6.50**; pensioners/unwaged/school students **£4.50**.

- Affiliation fee for local organisations: £15.00** p.a. (Except for student unions and Scottish and Welsh local organisations. *Tick box if details required.*)
- I/We wish to join the AAM, and enclose cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the AAM. National members receive **Anti-Apartheid News** ten times a year, Members Newsletters, the Annual Report and other materials.
- I/We wish to keep in touch with **Black Solidarity with South Africa and Namibia** — the Black and Ethnic Minorities Committee of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

**NAME** (Please print) .....

**ADDRESS** .....

Please return to: **Anti-Apartheid Movement**,  
13 Mandela St, London NW1 0DW. 01-387 7966



## Colonialism, Racism and Profits

1. Namibia is a huge, but sparsely populated country.
2. It was occupied first by Germany, then colonised by South Africa in 1915 during the First World War. The racist regime operates a veritable **reign of terror** on Black Namibians.
3. The 75,000 white settlers rule and fatten on the blood and sweat of the 1,500,000 Blacks.
4. To crush the people's resistance and aspirations for freedom and democracy, South Africa stations an **occupation army of 100,000**.
5. It is the country's fabulous mineral resources like diamonds, uranium, copper and karakul furs that the apartheid regime and the multi-national companies want. The 500,000-odd Namibian workers are mercilessly exploited and labour on poverty wages. If a Black receives £10 in wages a white gets £180! **Hence the huge profits.**
6. Voting and other democratic rights **do not exist for Black people**. Everything is racially segregated.

## Liberation Struggle

On the basis of previous anti-colonial struggles, the **South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO)** was formed in 1960, to unify and lead the national liberation movement.

To make things really hot for the enemy, SWAPO created its own army, the **People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN)**, in 1966.

Similarly, the **National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW)** was formed in 1971 at the inspiration of SWAPO, to lead the workers.

### So who's SWAPO, really?

The United Nations and the vast majority of the international community acknowledge that SWAPO is the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people.

### So do we.

Not surprisingly, the women of Namibia are organised and led by **SWAPO Women's Council**.

Similarly, the young people look up to the **SWAPO Youth League**; while students come under the umbrella of the **Namibian National Student Organisation (NANSO)**.



***SWAPO is the People. The People are SWAPO!  
The struggle continues! Victory is certain!***



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### ● **Support the liberation struggle in South Africa and Namibia**

Invite a speaker from the ANC, SACTU (South African Congress of Trade Unions) or SWAPO to your next meeting. Read their publications and pass them to your friends. Collect material aid: money, clothes, books, medical supplies and toiletries. Support the campaigns to free all political prisoners and **stop apartheid executions**. Put action against apartheid on the agenda of your next meeting. Get a speaker from the AAM —and contact your Local AA Group (tel. 01-387 7966 for details).

### ● **Boycott the products and the agents of apartheid**

Check the label — and don't buy any of the fruit, vegetables, wines, textiles, gold or diamonds coming from South Africa and Namibia. Tell the supermarkets and shopkeepers **not to buy apartheid goods**. Boycott Shell — the key oil company fuelling the apartheid regime and its military machine. Impose People's Sanctions against apartheid — in trade, tourism, sport and culture.

### ● **Speak out against apartheid — and the British government's support for the Botha regime**

Write to your local newspaper and radio station. Challenge the silence and distortions of the media — BBC, ITV, and national newspapers. Tell the world about the plight of children under apartheid. **Call for sanctions now** — to cut the life-lines of the racist regime and shorten the suffering of the people.

#### *For information in Britain*

**Anti-Apartheid Movement:** 13 Mandela Street, London NW1 0DW Tel. 01-387 7966

*At same address:* **SATIS** (Southern Africa The Imprisoned Society) — for campaigns against repression and in solidarity with political prisoners; **BART** (Bishop Ambrose Reeves Trust) — educational charity.

**African National Congress of South Africa (ANC):** PO Box 38, 28 Penton Street, London N1 9PR Tel. 01-837 2012. *At same address:* ANC Youth Section, ANC Women's Section.  
**South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO)** of Namibia: PO Box 194, London N5 1LW Tel. 01-359 9116.

**South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU):** 8 Flowers Mews, Upper Holloway, London N19 3TB Tel. 01-281 3233.

**Namibia Support Committee:** PO Box 16, London NW5 2LW Tel. 01-267 1941.

**International Defence & Aid Fund for Southern Africa (IDAF):** Canon Collins House, 64 Essex Road, London N1 8LR Tel. 01-359 9181

**Mozambique Angola Committee (MAC):** PO Box 839, London NW1 7EF.

#### *For information internationally*

**United Nations Centre Against Apartheid:** United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA (212) 754 5311. *At the same address:* **United Nations Council for Namibia** Tel (212) 754 5395.

**World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with Apartheid,** PO Box 2, Lindeberg Gaard, Oslo 10, Norway.

#### *For protest action*

**President P W Botha:** Union Buildings, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.

**South African Embassy:** South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 Tel. 01-930 4488.

**South African Airways:** 251 Regent Street, London W1 Tel. 01-734 9841.

**Foreign and Commonwealth Office:** King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AL