

1983

On South Africa: Did You Know... ?

Coalition for Illinois Divestment from South Africa

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ON SOUTH AFRICA: DID YOU KNOW...?

WHAT IS APARTHEID?

Apartheid, an Afrikaner word meaning separateness, is the name given by the Government of the Republic of South Africa to its system of racial segregation, oppression and exploitation. This system enables whites, who comprise less than one fifth of the population, to control the Republic's affairs.

Under *apartheid*, the freedom of movement and the political and socio-economic rights of Africans, Coloured persons and Asians are sharply curtailed. Eighty-seven per cent of the land is set aside for the white minority. Africans are forcibly kept apart, assigned by the Government to reserves that constitute less than 13 per cent of the least productive land in South Africa.

Apartheid is the corner-stone of South Africa's economic as well as political structure: industries and business firms—owned mainly by whites and foreign interests—benefit from *apartheid*. They earn large profits through the exploitation of Africans, whose land and natural resources have been taken from them and who toil at poverty-level wages, providing the cheap labour on which South Africa's economy depends.

REPRESSION AND CONTROL

The Internal Security Act, Suppression of Communism Act, Riotous Assemblies Act, Sabotage Act and Unlawful Organizations Act are a few of the security laws enacted by the South African government to control and silence the population.

- 44,300 persons were convicted of such laws between June '76 and July '79.
- Persons can be "detained" without charge and held indefinitely. 2,217 persons were detained in 1980 and 1981.
- Africans must at all times carry passbooks which indicate where they can legally live and work. A total of at least 6.1 million people were tried for passbook offenses between 1967 and 1980. In 1982 alone, more than 200,000 people were arrested under these laws, a 20% increase over 1981. During the 5 minutes it takes you to read this fact sheet, 2 blacks will have been arrested for pass book violations.
- Banning is another form of silencing critics by prohibiting their free movement, meeting with others, writing or being quoted. Between 1961 and 1981 there were 1,400 people banned for 2-5 year periods often following their release from detention and sometimes repeated after one period terminates.

Prison, detention and banning sentences are not without torture and death. Just so these statistics don't remain impersonal, here is one of thousands of stories:

Thozamile Gweta, president of the South African Allied Workers Union was detained seven times between November 1981 and May 1982. As a result of his treatment in detention, on February 12, 1982 he was admitted to a hospital suffering from headache and severe depression and anxiety. In 1981 his house had been burned and a second mysterious fire had killed his mother and uncle. When police fired on the crowd returning from the funeral of his mother and uncle, his fiancée Diliswa Roxiso was killed.

THERE WAS A GIRL*

by Dennis Brutus

There was a girl
eight years old, they say
her hair in spiky braids
her innocent fist raised in imitation

Afterwards, there was a mass of red
some torn pieces of meat
and bright rags fluttering;
a girl in a print dress, once, they say.

*Soweto incident, July 1976.

CIDSA notes: An estimated 1000 children
were killed, 500 of whom
were shot in the back.

CIDSA

312/666-9243 or 312/660-8671

Cosiltion for Illinois' Divestment from South Africa

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SOURCES: AFIRCA FUND, Fact Sheet 1981,
Human Rights Violations, 1983.
SAIRR, Survey Race Relations 1982.
UN DPI, A Crime Against Humanity

POLITICAL "REFORMS"

South Africa's new (Nov. '83) constitution offers a 3-house parliament where Coloreds and Indians are given separate bodies (85 and 45 members respectively) with whites retaining the monopoly of power (178 members). Blacks vote for no one and officially become members of separate "homelands" and lose their South African citizenship. In actuality, the real reform was the formation of the State Security Council--made up of the Prime Minister, and top men of Defence, Police, Justice, Foreign Affairs and National Intelligence--which makes the crucial decisions and then passes them on to the nominally superior cabinet for approval.

EDUCATION

- Attendance: Primary and High School education has been compulsory and free for whites, but neither compulsory nor free for Africans. In 1981 the government introduced compulsory education for 70,000 African pupils, about 2% of all African students. All public education remains racially segregated with racially differentiated curricula.
- Per capita spending on education 1980/81:

whites - \$913
Africans - \$140
Coloreds - \$253
Indians - \$513
- Teacher/pupil ratio 1982:

whites - 1:18.2
Africans - 1:39.1
Coloreds - 1:27.3
Asian - 1:24.3

1981 AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNINGS

	WHITE	COLORED	ASIAN	AFRICAN
MINING	\$ 1008	304	478	169
MANUFACTURING	905	250	283	215
DOMESTICS	-	-	-	34 - 67
FARM LABOR	-	-	-	49 -120

POPULATION

AFRICAN	27,629,770	78%
WHITE	4,500,000	13%
COLORED	2,600,000	7%
ASIAN	821,000	2%
	35,550,770	100%

HEALTH

- Infant mortality (1980):

whites - 12/1000
urban Africans - 69/1000
rural Africans - 282/1000
- Professor Francois Retief, rector of Medunsa University writing in the "South African Medical Journal" estimated that the doctor/patient ratio for South Africa, excluding the Transkei, Bophuthatswana and Venda "homelands" was 1:1540, with a breakdown as follows:

whites - 1:330
Asians - 1:730
Coloreds - 1:12,000
Africans - 1:91,000

U.S. - SOUTH AFRICA: ECONOMIC LINKS

South Africa is economically supported by the direct investment of 350 American companies.

U.S. multinational corporations and banks have over \$14 billion invested directly or indirectly in the South African economy.