

Columbia College Chicago

Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago

Lisa Brock Collection

Special Collections

8-2-1981

Stope the Apartheid Rugby Tour (SART) Statement

Columbia College Chicago

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/brock>



Part of the [African Languages and Societies Commons](#), [American Studies Commons](#), [Cultural History Commons](#), [Oral History Commons](#), [Race, Ethnicity and Post-Colonial Studies Commons](#), and the [Social History Commons](#)

SART / CHICAGO

Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour

407 S. Dearborn . Suite 355 . Chicago, IL., 60605 . (312) 427-4064/5

We, a group of concerned organizations and individuals in Chicago, have come together to form a broad-based coalition, STOP THE APARTHEID RUGBY TOUR (SART). We stand united with national SART efforts to oppose and prevent the tour to Chicago, Albany and New York City of the South African national rugby team, the Springboks.

The South African government systematically denies basic human rights to the majority of its population. Therefore, we oppose any United States complicity with the South African system of oppression. Sports contacts with South Africa are used by its government to improve its image while its forces continue to enforce racial segregation through bannings, deportations, arrests and the use of torture.

On September 19, 1981, the South African rugby team is due to play a rugby match with a selected team of members of the Midwest Rugby Football Union in the Chicago area. (The Rugby Union has refused to designate the location of the match.)

We oppose the match for the following reasons.

- 1) South Africa's white government maintains racial segregation of life under a system known as apartheid and commits vast human rights violations against the Black majority.
- 2) There is no separation between sports and politics. Just as the U.S. boycotted the 1980 Olympics, allegedly because of Soviet presence in Afghanistan, so can it refuse sports contacts with South Africa.
- 3) Although there are cosmetic changes in the South African team (Black team members) to deceive people outside of South Africa, all laws enforcing apartheid in sports remain on the South African statute books.
- 4) Of the 34 South African team players and officials, 4 are members of the brutal South African Defense Force and 2 are policemen.
- 5) The United States government has issued visas to members of the Springboks team in violation of the United Nations Resolution to isolate South African sports contacts.

Our goal, therefore, is to cause the Springboks rugby matches to be cancelled or, if they are held, to protest the match in the Chicago area. To this end, we are:

- * Calling on President Reagan to revoke the visas issued to the apartheid team.
- * Calling on Governor Thompson and Mayor Byrne to prohibit use of public facilities or lands within their respective areas for the match.
- * Calling on Mayor Byrne and Governor Thompson to meet with representatives of this coalition.
- * Calling for observances throughout the Chicago area on Friday, September 11, and a RALLY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 to mark the anniversary of the murder of South African leader, Steven Biko; and to protest the Tour.
- * Establishing communications with all concerned organizations and individuals to enable as many people as possible to participate in a protest at the site of the match on September 19th.

ENDORSERS: (in formation)

AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, AMERICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EQUALITY IN SPORT AND SOCIETY, AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, CHICAGO PEACE COUNCIL, CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED, COMMUNIST PARTY USA-ILL DIST., EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN FOR SOUTH AFRICA, GREY PANTHERS, LATINO YOUTH, MAY 19TH COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION, METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION, COLEMAN MILLER (President, Evanston Chapter NAACP), NATIONAL ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICAN LIBERATION, NA FIANNA, NATIONAL BLACK INDEPENDENT POLITICAL PARTY, NATIONAL BLACK UNITED FRONT, NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS, NCBL COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF LAW, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, OPERATION PUSH, PALESTINE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, PEOPLE'S ANTI-WAR MOBILIZATION, PEOPLE'S WAR TRIBUNAL, INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AGAINST RACISM IN SPORTS, REPUBLIC OF NEW AFRICA, N.Y., REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST LEAGUE, SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, SOUTH AFRICAN NON-RACIAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, SYNAPSES, TRANSFRICA, UNITE NEWSPAPER, URBAN LIFE CENTER, U.S. PEACE COUNCIL, WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA, YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE, NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST AND POLITICAL REPRESSION, COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS, CHAMPAIGN-URBANA COALITION AGAINST APARTHEID, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN