1982

REAGANISM IS BLACK GENOCIDE !

Black people in South Africa and the United States are now in a perilous situation - the very existence of Black life is under assault in both places. And in each case, the Reagan administration is leading the assault. The time has come for all Black people and all people of conscience to speak out with a single voice against this rampant racism. We invite you to join us in the planning and preparatory stages of a national mobilization for African Liberation Day at the United Nations on May 22, 1982.

Why now? Consider the fact that while the racist South African government is stepping up its repressive actions against freedom fighters and democratic protesters through assassinations, arbitrary arrests, and other extra-legal means, the Reagan administration calls the aparteid regime a "friendly nation". When the South African army invades Angola and the United Nations votes to condemn the Pretoria government, the U.S. steps in to veto the move. Meanwhile, Washington unilaterally decides to sell the white settler state the latest technical equipment to use against Black people there.

But at least Reagan is consistent: his policies at home are also targeted at Black people here. While he claims to oppose racism, he guts affirmative action programs and social services for Black and poor people. While Black women in Alabama are jailed for participating in voter registration, he undermines the Voting Rights Act. While forced busing is used instead of upgrading all poor neighborhood schools, he moves to subsidize segragated schools through tax exemptions. While the U.S. government welcomes right wing exiles, it attempts to deport African refugees; and it places thousands of Haitians in concentration camps. Haitian refugee boats are turned back by the Coast Guard, only to find the dead bodies washed up on some beach.

To top this off, the administration's "New Federalism" signals a return to "States Rights" and an era of increased suffering, misery, and impoverishment for Black and poor people throughout the U.S.. Look at the jobless rate in the Black community, especially among the youth. It is already at the level of the Great Depression of the '30's.

Black unemployment in South Africa and the U.S. is skyrocketing as these cynical policies take effect. But so is the voice of international protest. The U.N. Committee Against Aparteid has declared 1982 the "International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions Against South Africa." We strongly urge you to heed this call and to join with us in making African Liberation Day a sound heard around the world. On May 22nd we will call for sanctions against South Africa; self-determination for all African nations; asylum in the U.S. for African and Haitian refugees; and jobs, justice, peace, and equality for all at home and abroad.

ALD has traditionally been a time when freedom-loving people everywhere stand in solidarity against the forces of racism and reaction. Since the first ALD in 1972, thousands have rallied across this country to call for freedom for Black people in South Africa and the U.S.. We are now organizing to make this the biggest ALD ever. We invite you to join us on Thursday evenings at 7 pm in the Harriet Tubman House, 566 Columbus Avenue, Boston for the regional planning sessions. We are working on outreach, publicity, logistics, and fund-raising in the Boston area. This will be a broad-based effort to unite the widest possible coalition of individuals and groups, so bring your ideas and suggestions. If you are unable to attend the meetings but are interested in endorsing the mobiliztion, contributing finicial support or participating in other ways, please contact Boston SCALD at the address listed on the front of this leaflet.

Partial list of National Endorsers

William H. Booth, President,
American Committee on Africa
Rev. Timothy Mitchell,
*Ebenezer Baptist Church
Mike Young,
Communist Workers Party
Coalition of Concerned Black Women
Dr. Richard Lapchick,
*ACCESS (American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sports and Society)
Rev. Dr. Fred Williams,
Church of the Intercessions
Rev. Dr. William A. Jones,
*National Black Pastors Conference
Ossie Davis
Ruby Dee
Riverside Church, Southern Africa Team
John Spearman,
Black and Latin Workers Health and Safety Resource Center
Rev. Alonzo Johnson, Chairman,
*Black Caucus, Union Theological Seminary
New York TransAfrica
Rev. Fred Douglas Kirkpatrick,
Black Theology Project
Rev. Muhammad Kenyatta,
*Harvard Law School BLSA
Donald Issac
Founder African Liberation Support Committee, Washington, D.C.
James Park
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7-D, Washington, D.C.
Barbara Valentine
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 8-A, President, People's Co-op
Jerome Bates, President
H.E. & P. Tenant's Organization
Virginia Toney, President
Howard Garden's Tenant Organization
Vernie Archie, Chairman of the Board
Fenbury Square Tenant Organization
Kojo Nambi, News Director
WHUR-Radio
Rep. Mickey Leland
18th Congressional District
Tenant Solidarity Union
Larry Weston - Chairman
Black American Law Student Association
Georgetown University
Oscar Brown, Jr.
Musician, Playwright
Rene Dubose, Chairperson
People United Against Government Repression Klan and Nazis
Black Student Communications Organizing Network (BSCON)
Black Intercollegiate Association of Students
Dr. Manning Marable
Professor, Cornell University
Roger Green
New York State Assemblyman
Fr. Washington
1st Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia, PA
Rev. Roger Zeppernick,
Philadelphia, PA.
Richard Allen Tenant Coalition, Philadelphia, PA
Federation for Progress
Coalition in Support of the Liberation Struggles of Southern Africa
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*For identification purposes only

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