

**SOUTH AFRICA &  
MOSES MAYEKISO**  
General Secretary, National Union of  
Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA)  
1984 Metalworkers & other black unions  
lead stay-away strike  
1985 Mayekiso plays key role in founding  
Congress of South African Trade  
Unions (COSATU) & Alexandra  
Township Action Committee  
1986 State of Emergency – Mayekiso & 12  
others arrested  
1987 White minority regime charges  
Mayekiso & others with treason

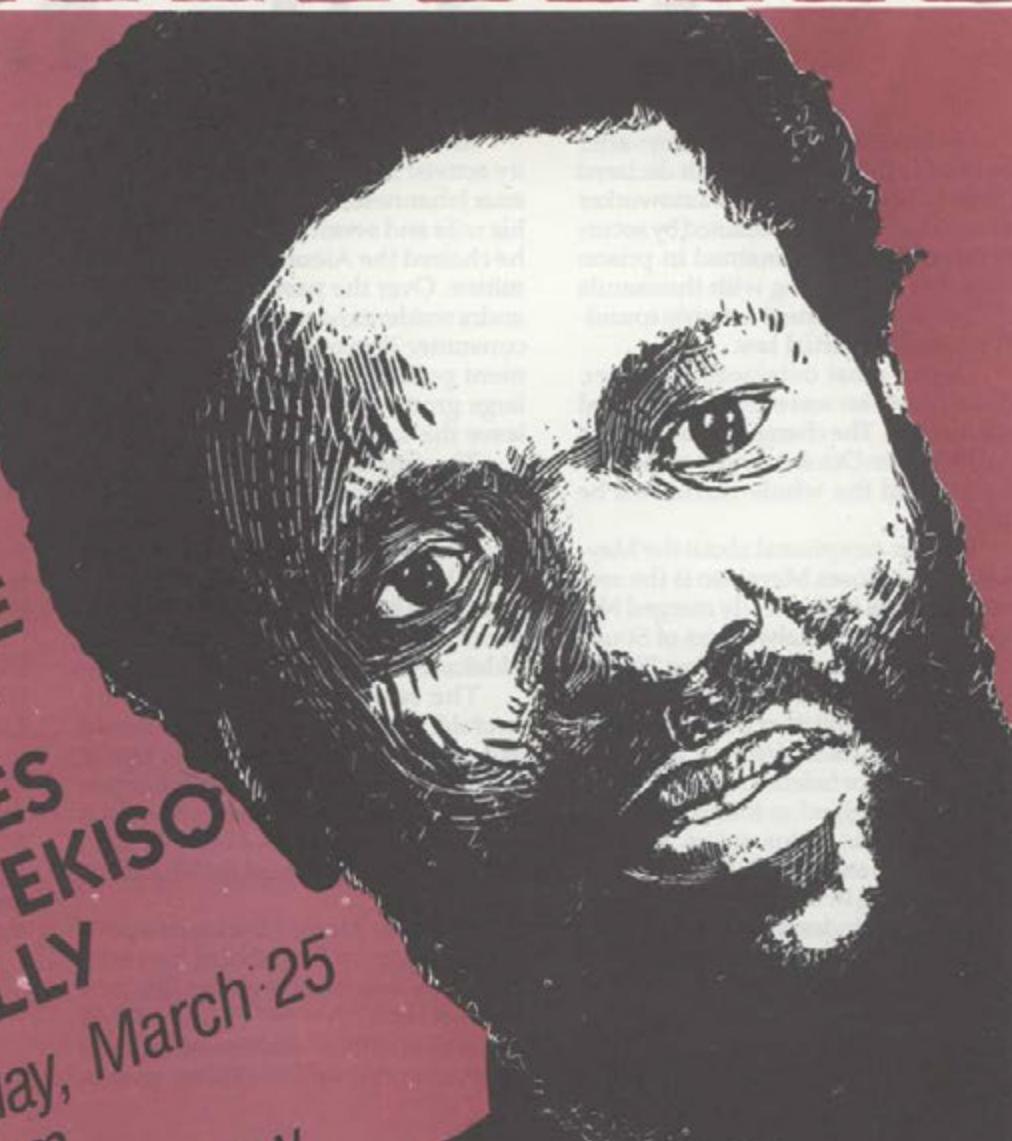
**FREE JUSTICE  
FOR  
MOSES  
MAYEKISO  
RALLY**

Friday, March 25  
7 pm

District 65, UAW  
13 Astor Place

**MAYEKISO**

**END APARTHEID!**



# Apartheid on Trial

On June 28, 1986, sixteen days after the South African government declared a State of Emergency, black autoworker Moses Mayekiso was detained by security forces. He has remained in prison since that time, along with thousands of other anti-apartheid activists rounded up under martial law.

Unlike most detainees, however, Moses Mayekiso was eventually charged with a crime. The charge is treason. The trial, begun in October, will resume February 1 and the whole world will be watching...

What is exceptional about the Mayekiso case? Moses Mayekiso is the secretary general of the newly merged National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), representing 130,000 workers in auto and other metal trades. Numsa is an affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the leading labor federation which Brother Mayekiso helped to found in 1985.

At the time of his arrest, Brother Mayekiso was returning from a union solidarity meeting in Sweden. His 163-page indictment includes additional charges based on his activities in Britain raising support for the bitter South African metalworkers strike against the British conglomerate BTR at its Sarmcol plant.

Moses Mayekiso is also a community activist in the Alexandra Township, near Johannesburg, where he lives with his wife and seven children and where he chaired the Alexandra Action Committee. Over the past two years, Alexandra residents have organized rent and consumer boycotts to protest government policies. These actions forced a large group of black security police to leave the township.

The South African government claims that these organizing activities constitute an attempt to overthrow the government. Along with Mayekiso, Pretoria has brought treason charges against his brother Mzwanele and community leaders Paul Tshabalala, Richard Mdakane, and Obed Bapela.

The real issues of the trial are twofold. First, the Botha regime would like a conspicuous precedent for legally crushing all forms of independent organizing and self-governance in the black townships, which have been the flash points for anti-apartheid mobilizations since 1984.

Secondly, Moses Mayekiso is a powerful and personal symbol of how militant trade unionism is generating new layers of leadership and organization in the anti-apartheid movement in both the community and workplace arenas.

Brother Mayekiso has been jailed several times before. In his last arrest, he was tortured, placed in solitary confinement and held for 10 months before charges were brought. The persecution of Moses Mayekiso is intended as a warning to COSATU leaders to curtail labor's growing involvement in the political struggle.

Pretoria's trial is inspiring more outrage than fear, however. Numsa and the International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) have called for worldwide protest of the trial. In the US, the United Auto Workers has spearheaded a "Justice for Mayekiso Campaign." The UAW is sending a delegation of 10 American jurists to observe the trial and has also launched a postcard campaign. Rallies have been held by unionists in San Francisco, Detroit and Chicago.

The stakes of the trial are high. The defense of Moses Mayekiso is more than the defense of a courageous man. It is the defense of thousands of South African union activists, already jailed and yet to be jailed, who claim that all human rights are labor rights.

*from Labor Against Apartheid*

Praise poets, messengers  
Observers,  
Run in all directions,  
Stand on top of the mountains  
Report to Botha at Pretoria  
Report to our heroes on the  
Island,  
Report to the angels in your  
Prayers,  
Say unto them—here is a  
Flood of workers,  
The employers have done what  
Ought not to be.

*From Black Mamba Rising,  
a praise-poem by factory worker  
Mi S'Dumo Hlatshwayo*