



# Southern Africa

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## “I’d Go to Prison Again”

*SAN was privileged to host an October evening discussion in Chicago with Rev. Frank Chikane, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC). The evening was rich with information and analysis. We’ll share a bit of it with you.*

Rev. Chikane began by stating there is both good and bad news. The good news is that change is happening. “It’s a painful good news,” he said. “People sacrificed, died, were exiled, detained and tortured for it.”

He emphasized that it was the people who forced the regime to negotiate. The government didn’t decide it was time to negotiate; it was pushed to do so by the people. And yet the government receives the good publicity. Chikane pointed out the biblical parallel in the story of the judge and the widow (Luke 18). The judge refused time and time again to respond to the widow, but she did not give up. Finally, in exasperation, the judge gave in to her. In the Bible, the woman is commended for her persistence. Shouldn’t the persistent people of South Africa be commended more than their “judge”?

The bad news is that because the downfall of apartheid is coming through negotiations rather than a military victory, the balance of forces within the country remains as it was. The army and civil service are both still intact. As a result, many people ask if the results of the elections will be accepted by those in power.

In response to questions about the upcoming elections, Chikane reported there will be 7,000-8,000 polling stations. The SACC has joined others in requesting the name “polling station” be changed since it sounds too much like “police station” where people met so much hardship over the years. Expressing the hope that there could be three monitors per station, and adding that the UN will provide 1,000 monitors at the most, Chikane declared, “The churches must help bring international monitors.”

“We need international monitors to be present during the campaign. too. The game will be over if you come only on April 27th.” Already people are being given money to attend De Klerk’s meetings and two to three million people still don’t have identity documents needed in order to vote. “It is vital you come.”

He went on to add, “Please don’t think the struggle is ended on the 27th. The real struggle begins on the 28th.” Comparing the ongoing work to the sovereign reign of God, Chikane continued, “There will be no stage when we have arrived; we are all the time struggling.”



Rev. Frank Chikane with Rev Molefe Tsele look at recent copy of *Southern Africa*.

Recent negotiations have focused more on the whites than on the oppressed majority. Chikane said, “We’re negotiating the freedom of the whites who ask what we will do with their wealth and their pensions. They are asking us, who have no wealth and no pensions, to protect theirs.” It is ironic that the new government is asked to pay the pensions of those who tortured them.

In the midst of this painful realization, Chikane concluded, “We want justice for all South Africans. If any government takes over and does to the whites what whites did to us, I’d go to prison again.”

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## FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT

We invite SAN members traveling to southern Africa to share vignettes, thoughts and reflections.

Valora Starr, director of growth and witness for Women of the ELCA is a member of Chicago's St. Stephens Lutheran Church. She accompanied the Bethel Lutheran Church Choir to South Africa in June, 1993.

As the plane was about to land, I thought of how much I had learned about the struggle of the South African people since my last visit in 1986. I was confident that I was a bit more informed about the political situation, although the concept of winter in Africa was still a hard one to grasp! The faces of people I had known for ten years ran through my mind. Warm feelings flooded my heart as I prayed for a safe landing and to find all my friends in good health and spirits.

We arrived during meetings between Nelson Mandela and F.W. De Klerk, and there were reports of violence when we reached the crowd gathered with Bishop Buthelezi to greet us at the church office. Soweto looked very much the same, but the people were different. They were full of hope and assurance that they will see an end to apartheid. I knew at that moment: this is a different South Africa.

The conversation at the African National Congress office in Durban was lively and brought back feelings of involvements in the civil rights movement here in the US. It was so clear that black South Africans will travel the same route as African Americans did thirty years ago. Racism is still alive and well in the US and how we deal with it is a mirror for South Africa. Speaking face to face, African Americans and South Africans, of support



David M. Phoshoko

for one another without having to receive information second hand, helped me realize the need for African Americans at the forefront of the Southern Africa Network.

I did not go to southern Africa with the intention of representing or working on behalf of Women of the ELCA, but a woman's work is never done. I was impressed with the dedication and care that women lavish upon the church. At a stewardship rally in Soweto, women dressed in black and white uniforms were a visible witness and strong presence to the importance of women's ministry in the church.

Just as in my community, women in South Africa are concerned about the welfare of the children, health care, and the safety of their families. Many conversations centered around the issue of abuse. One sister noted, "We are not only concerned with spousal, child, and alcohol abuse, but also with how the violence in everyday life compounds the abuse. For example, children see death all around them and have become callous to it. The men drink because of the violence. The women were clear that the issues cannot be separated. All are women's issues and all must be chipped away at the same time.

I still have difficulty putting this experience into words. I do know this: the networking done on behalf of South Africa must be directly related to issues in the US. There is no difference in the racism that looms over the everyday lives of Americans and the apartheid that is present daily in South Africa. Monitoring must go on in both places. We will become do-gooders, and worthless experts on the plight of someone else if we are not willing to chip away at all of the issues at the same time.

### Travel Opportunity

"Elections in South Africa: The Dismantling of Apartheid"—travel seminar to South Africa coordinated by The Center for Global Education.

Join this two-week tour to experience first-hand the day when all South Africans will finally have the opportunity to vote in national elections! Participants will arrive a week before the elections to get an overview of the current situation and perspectives on the elections process. The delegations will meet grassroots community organizers working on voter education, members of various political parties, and people involved in the international monitoring process. On election day, the group will observe the voting process at one or more locations. After the elections, several more days will be spent in the country to witness the outcome and dialogue with both blacks and whites about what the results mean for a new South Africa. (\$3,600 including airfare and all expenses from New York) Call The Center for Global Education at (612) 330-1159.

## COMPANION SYNOD REPORTS

*Through sharing information, joys and difficulties of working on long distance partnerships, we strengthen our companion synod work.*

### Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod-Namibia ELCIN and ELCRN

Pastor Engelhardt Noabeb from Windhoek, Namibia is serving as a "Missionary from Namibia" to the Washington, DC, Metro Synod for ten weeks this fall. Both ELCRN and ELCIN chose Rev. Noabeb as their representative to come to the US. He has been the "Lutheran Hour" preacher on the Namibia's National Radio station and currently serves Soweto Lutheran Parish outside Windhoek.

While in Washington, Pastor Noabeb is hosted in nine congregations for a week each. He preaches on Sunday morning, talks in adult forums, confirmation classes, and other parish gatherings. During the week he accompanies his host pastor to hospital calls, committee meetings, etc. The program is funded by each host congregation contributing \$250 towards air transportation, insurance and a minimal honorarium. The Metro Synod hopes to have a visiting pastor from Namibia to serve as a "Missionary from Namibia" again next fall.

In addition to this project the Companion Synod program provides a ministry of hospitality to the many Namibian students studying in the Washington area, as well as Embassy staff posted in Washington. Twelve congregations have sister congregations in Namibia. One small delegation including Bishop Jansen has already traveled to Namibia and another trip for synod members is in the planning stages.

### Violence Monitor Reflects

*Jim Knutson, 18 years a missionary in South Africa and Africa staff person for ALC/ELCA for 16 years, represented ELCA as part of the South Africa Ecumenical Monitoring Program (EMPSA). He sent us reflections following six weeks of monitoring. Jim is making plans to return to South Africa in mid March as an election monitor.*

It was a challenge to try to understand what was going on. The whole situation is so complex and each local situation of conflict, potential conflict, protest, or negotiation always has a complex history. Nothing is simple. We tried to gather as much information as possible and leaned very much on local people.

My colleague, Father Mellon of France, and I were fortunate to work with Albert Whittles who has been active in church and political affairs for many years. It was a challenge to know how to act and what to say, or very often, what not to say, in order to be of the greatest support to Albert and other chief actors on the spot.

Some pictures that stand out in my mind give an idea of what is transpiring in South Africa these days:

- Aubrey Nxumalo, a civic leader in Daveyton began



a presentation to a group of 40 South African police by saying, "It is rather strange for me, a person who spent four and a half years in detention without trial, to be speaking to this gathering...We are all in a state of crisis, in the same boat, if we don't handle this situation well, we will all sink."

- Rev. Frank Chikane, General Secretary of the South Africa Council of Churches (SACC), spoke to several hundred residents in the Zulu hostel in Tokoza, site of ongoing conflict between hostel dwellers and township residents. Stressing SACC concern for all people, he apologized for the perception that the SACC was against hostel dwellers. This was only a first step, but the fact that SACC staff were allowed into the hostels was termed a "major breakthrough" by Rev. Chikane.

- Six hundred Africans from a nearby township standing on the main street of MacClear to cheer the arrival of Rev. Eddie Leeuw, Regional Peace Secretariat, and myself, the lone international monitor that day. The subsequent meeting, where township leaders (blacks) and town councilors (whites) met to begin setting up a joint administration for the area, was noisy, but it was a beginning.

There is despair and impatience among Africans over the growing violence and the slow pace of negotiations. There is a growing fear of the future among whites, and a number feel that getting out of the country is the only answer.

I conclude with a quote from a recent letter from Mary Mxadana, the National Coordinator of EMPSA. "We are convinced that there is no turning back now....violence continues to ravage various township communities....Christians and peace-loving people in our country ceaselessly continue to work for reconciliation, tolerance, love, and peace."

### Media Resource

*Living Media*—a 60 minute cassette tape of media training designed to bring your travel experience home to your community. (\$9.99 plus \$1.50 shipping: GW Associates, 702 S. Beech, Syracuse, NY 13210)

Before visiting your companion synod, prepare for your return. *Living Media* gives concrete steps for using the media to share your story and that of your companions in southern Africa. Learn how to identify outlets for your story, write a press release, pitch a story, and interview effectively.

## ADVOCACY

### Sanctions Lifted!

**"We call on our international church partners and other groups who have stood in solidarity with us in opposing apartheid to cease all campaigns for the economic isolation of South Africa."**  
*-Statement from the South African Council of Churches following Nelson Mandela's September call for lifting of sanctions.*

Since President Bush's premature removal of federal sanctions in 1991, the most effective continuing sanctions have been the state and local actions that many of us helped to initiate. We cannot assume they will fade away; we must now go back and help lift them. Check with your town council and state legislatures to **make certain South African sanctions have been removed.**

**"We hope that the cities and states that were the firm backbone of the anti-apartheid movement in the US will commit themselves to actively supporting re-investment in the South African economy in a socially responsible manner."**  
*-Nelson Mandela*

Once the sanctions resolutions/ordinances are removed, we can encourage investment in South Africa. Check out your pension funds, your college's investments, your own investment funds—**request investments in South Africa.**

The South African Council of Churches (SACC) issued a ten point code of conduct for business operating in South Africa. The code is available from the SAN office. **Encourage investors to honor the code.**

Over \$300 billion in public and private funds were barred from investment in US companies operating in South Africa according to the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. A statement from them on the sanctions concluded, "People of conscience throughout America can take great pride in the fact that **we helped make this historic victory possible.** We launched a successful drive to use our investment funds and our purchasing power to combat the evil of apartheid. Now we must strengthen our partnership with the people of South Africa to eradicate the legacy of apartheid and build an equitable society in which all can enjoy the fruits of democracy."

### Lutherans Respond to End of Sanctions

The Board of the Division for Church and Society adopted two recommendations in early October. One asks that the Church Council of the ELCA call for all American-based companies doing business in South Africa to endorse the SACC Code of Conduct and communicate this action to companies in which the ELCA or its related organizations have investments. The second requests that the Board of Pensions, Division of Church in Society and Division for Global Mission bring to the Church Council a report and

recommendations on how the ELCA will respond to economic development needs in South Africa.

### Books to Namibia

The Women of the ELCA sent a four page letter to congregational units entitled "Women in Namibia". Along with updates on women's projects in that country, it gives detailed instructions and addresses for sending books to Namibia. For copies of this useful letter contact Joan Pope, 8765 Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631 or phone (800) 638-3522.

### Promote Peace for Angola

H. CON. RES. 75 is a bill calling for the US to support the peace process in Angola. Let your legislators in Washington know that you are concerned about Angola. Write to the US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 or call the capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

### Support South African Elections

Contact Mr. Anthony Lake, national security advisor, stressing the urgency of neutral law enforcement during the election campaign in South Africa. Ask that the US government work for:

- freedom of movement for supporters of all political parties everywhere in South Africa, including territories currently policed by homeland forces such as Bophuthatswana and the KwaZulu police.
- adequate international support for monitoring of violence and for peacekeeping forces.

Send letters to:

Mr. Anthony Lake  
 National Security Council  
 Washington, DC 20500  
 Fax: (202) 456-2883

Send copies of letters to:

Mr. George Moose  
 Assist. Sec. of State for African Affairs  
 US State Department  
 Washington, DC 20520  
 Fax: (202) 647-6301

Senate African Affairs Subcommittee  
 226 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510  
 Fax: (202) 224-2223

House Africa Subcommittee  
 Room 817, O'Neill House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515  
 Fax: (202) 225-8791

# BAOBAB



# NOTES

Volume 2 Number 5

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## With U.S. aid, Angolan army threatens UNITA stronghold

With satellite information assistance from the US government about UNITA troop movements, the Angolan government's army has closed in on UNITA's headquarters in Huambo. Government troops are now within 50 miles of that city. Prospects for peace talks remain gloomy as the war raged on leaving more than 2,000 UNITA soldiers dead in the last week of August. The government has also bought more weapons, contributing to its recent battle success. Angola is the world's biggest war, though international media overshadows it with news coverage on Bosnia and Somalia.

South African companies in Durban and Johannesburg continue to support UNITA, sending weapons and supplies to Angola via Namibia. (*The Independent*, 8/31/93; *The Guardian*, 9/3/93)

## RENAMO demands deployment of UN troops in Mozambique

As one of the provisions in the 1992 Rome peace agreement, the FRELIMO government would provide RENAMO with "logistical support" in Maputo to ease the reactionary forces' entry into political life. After squabbling over not receiving enough telecommunications, houses and other such support from the government, Afonso Dhlakama and his men retreated to RENAMO headquarters in Maringue.

They refuse to return to Maputo until 65% of the UN troops are deployed. Aldo Ajello, who heads the UN operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ), has responded that the promised 8,000 UN peacekeepers will be deployed in the near future, leaving RENAMO with no further excuses to return to Maputo and set up commissions with the government. By July 23rd, 6,505 UN troops had been deployed including 1,100 Italians, 700 Batswana, and 2,000 troops from Bangladesh, Uruguay, Portugal and Japan. (*South Scan*, 7/23/93; *Africa South & East*, 6/93; *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, Summer 1993)

## "The future is not what it used to be"

There is a feeling of uncertainty in South Africa, a mix of optimism about the first all-race April 1994 elections as well as apprehension arising from the situation of near absolute violence. The rampant violence is being committed both by various government security forces and their agents, and by black and white organizations and right wing individuals who perceive democracy and majority rule under the ANC as their common enemy.

Victims of violence in South Africa continue to be reported on a selective basis, by which the deaths of whites are considered newsworthy and sensational, while the massacres of blacks have gone on for so long they lack news worthiness. The Human Rights Commission (HRC) reported 653 deaths since June 1. The atrocious number of deaths of black South Africans remain unnoticed and anonymous in the local and international media. On the other hand, the 53 injuries and 11 deaths of mostly white victims in the St. James Anglican Church in Kenilworth, Capetown in late July as well as the more recent murder of Amy Biehle, an American Fulbright student, have received a lot of international coverage.

*Along the paths people talk of life,  
of the future which will come but never  
does,  
of the scars of aggression which all bear  
of hate, love and of concord.*

*Along the paths people talk of death,  
of those who kill us and for what reason.  
Of children who don't sleep  
for the world around them  
is peopled with monsters.*

*Along the paths  
the people say that this war  
must be ended right now.  
That the swords that kill us  
must go back to the sheathes.  
And if the sheathes are short  
let them find longer ones  
where the swords may vanish  
and no longer kill or destroy.*

*Along the paths the people talk  
of this, and much more.*

*This is how we are. Human, vulnerable,  
naive even,  
but with a large, an immense soul  
able to harbour all dreams.*

*And from hope and from dream  
and from the struggle to shape the dream  
comes life.*

*We seek  
beyond peace  
serenity.*

**Jorge Rebelo**  
New Year 1993

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INSERT:  
TOXICS AND SOUTHERN AFRICA  
FACTSHEET

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There also appears to be a growing sense among South Africans that national negotiations are far removed from the fear and desperation of people's daily lives. (*Prexy Nesbitt, Southern Africa Trip Report*, 8/93; *The Boston Globe*, 8/29/93)

# SAEPEJ

## SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

**S**outh Africa is a prime example of the unsettling connections that exist between race, gender, poverty, and the environment. Apartheid has had and continues to have a devastating effect on black South Africans as well as the environment. The importation of haz-

ardous wastes, the dumping of mercury in rivers, the strip mining of coal and uranium, the outdated methods of producing synthetic fuels, along with the rampant poverty, lack of sewage facilities and deliberate structuring of the notorious 'homelands' present South Africa with serious environmental concerns. Post-apartheid South Africa will have to confront the inherited toxic and environmental crisis as it strives to transform and rebuild South African society.

**THE PRESENT GENERATION HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS TO PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT ... THE ANC BELIEVES ENVIRONMENTAL RECONSTRUCTION CONSTITUTES A MAJOR TASK OF A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA. — MAX SISULU, ANC**

The South African Exchange Program on Environmental Justice (SAEPEJ) focuses on the effects of toxics and the deteriorating environment on the health and daily lives of communities. The program establishes links between community and labour groups in the U.S. and their counterparts in South Africa. This initiative is composed of two elements, the first of which is popular education and information transfer. Given the lack of infor-

mation in the U.S. on the South African environmental crisis and the inadequate information in South Africa on toxic and health issues, SAEPEJ will disseminate information to the anti-apartheid and environmental movements in the U.S. while making

valuable information available to the South African movement through databases and literature. In addition, SAEPEJ will coordinate talks and presentations on the destructiveness of apartheid at concerned U.S. organizations and college campuses.

The second element of the program consists of trainings and people-to-people exchanges. SAEPEJ believes in the power of linking affected communities in South Africa with ones in the U.S. to share information as well as strategies for community organizing and for challenging polluters. SAEPEJ aims to work with South African labour and community groups in order to highlight issues of environmental justice and ecological democracy and bring to the forefront the inextricable link between confronting the environmental crisis and development. SAEPEJ will facilitate exchanges in which community environmentalists, labour representatives and technical support people

will go to South Africa to conduct trainings and workshops. In return, the program will bring South Africans to spend time with U.S. community and regional organizations in order to obtain first-hand knowledge of the environmental crisis here.

**B**lack South Africans have a strong history of resisting apartheid and their struggle provides valuable insights and lessons for the U.S. environmental justice movement. These exchanges provide excellent opportunities for leadership development and for forging new and dynamic links in international solidarity.

*To find out more about SAEPEJ and how you can assist or to become a member of FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT please contact Heeten Kalan at*

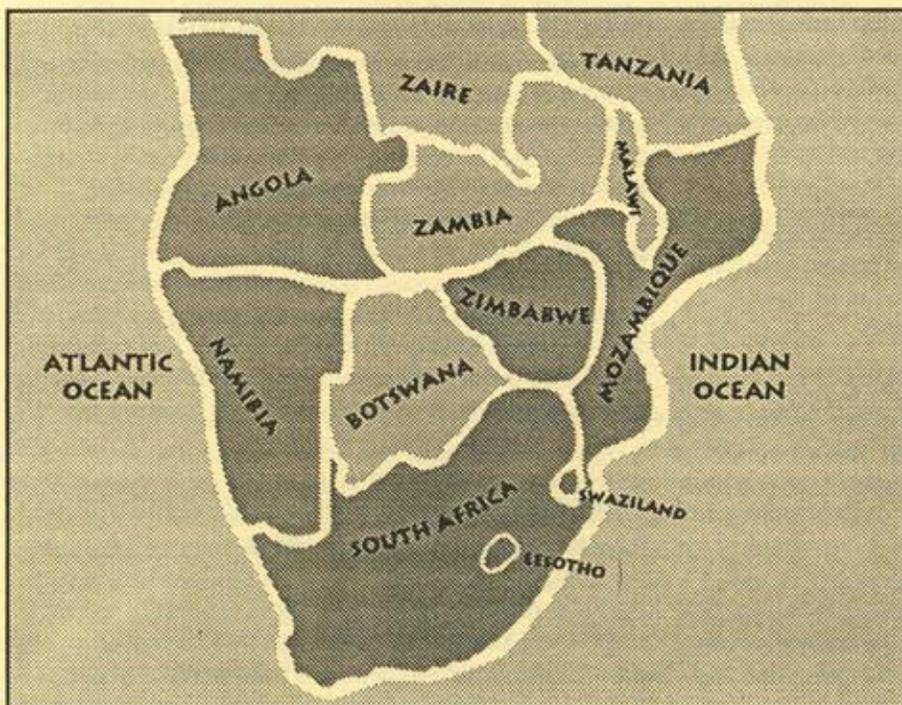
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*Tax-deductible contributions are welcomed.*

## IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT AND MAINTAIN

*the racist policies of apartheid, the South African government created 'bantustans' and residential townships. Corporations were given free rein to locate their industrial sites near these areas to access a cheap supply of labor.*

*In addition to the hazardous working conditions, industrial plants have polluted the air, soil and water, thus poisoning the lives and environment of millions of black South Africans. In addition, apartheid's tentacles have reached out to the frontline states and left its own distinctive bitter legacy.*



Wars in both Angola and Mozambique have created millions of refugees who have been forced to pick the earth bare for fuel and shelter.

**UNITA AND RENAMO CONTINUE TO FIGHT SCORCHED-EARTH WARS AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENTS, BRUTALLY KILLING ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS FOR THEIR VALUABLE TUSKS AND HORNS TO FINANCE THEIR VIOLENT CAMPAIGNS OF HORROR.**

There are at least three million unexploded landmines in Angola and another two million in Mozambique which promise to pose a threat of immense magnitude to both the people and the environment.

South Africa has a long history of using defoliants such as Agent Orange in its war against the frontline states and the underground armies of the ANC and PAC.

**IN FORMER RHODESIA, THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION AND THE SELOUS SCOUTS DEPLOYED CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE SUCH AS ORGANO-PHOSPHATE POISONS, THALLIUM, WARFARIN, "BACTERIOLOGICAL AGENTS", AND ANTHRAX BACTERIUM WHICH HAS POISONED THE FUTURE OF ZIMBABWE WHERE THE TOXIC LEGACY LINGERS.**

Mozambican refugees who fled the devastating war occupy a decrepit building which

was once a paint manufacturing plant outside of Johannesburg. The grounds and sheds are lined with barrels of toxic materials which are often used as fuel and wherein children frequently play.

**SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD MINES EXTRACT LARGE QUANTITIES OF URANIUM AS A SECONDARY PRODUCT, THUS EXPOSING NEARBY BLACK COMMUNITIES TO CANCER-CAUSING RADIUM AND RADON WHICH COMMONLY LEAK FROM URANIUM MINE WASTES.**

Data on coal mining show that from 1978 to 1983, South African coal workers were about 10 times more likely to die on the job as their counterparts in the United Kingdom.

**IN 1987, 85 PERCENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMERCIAL ENERGY WAS DERIVED FROM COAL, RESULTING IN ACCELERATED EXPLOITATION OF COAL SEAMS THROUGH STRIP MINING AND PRODUCING SOME OF THE WORST AIR POLLUTION IN THE WORLD**

In Mmafefe, a region of the Lebowa homeland, a health project report documented that 603 out of the 1724 houses in the village, 7 of the 12 schools, and many churches were made from asbestos brick and plaster.

**A 1990 HEALTH SURVEY CONDUCTED IN MEREWENT, NATAL (A RESIDENTIAL AREA SURROUNDED BY TWO OIL REFINERIES, AN AIRPORT, A PAPER MILL, TWO INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES, A WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS AND THE HIGHLY CONTAMINATED UMLAAS RIVER) HAS SHOWN THAT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE AN 80 PERCENT HIGHER CHANCE OF ACQUIRING COUGHS, COLDS AND FLUS THAN A SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY SIMILAR GROUP OF CHILDREN LOCATED 16 KILOMETERS AWAY.**

In the Mngweni River, which flows into the Valley of the Thousand Hills, Thor Chemicals is responsible for mercury concentrations 1,500 times the level at which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declares materials toxic.

**IN SEPTEMBER 1992, THERE WAS SUSPECTED DUMPING OF NUCLEAR AND TOXIC WASTE EXPORTS BY UNKNOWN WESTERN COUNTRIES IN THE SKELETON COAST OF NAMIBIA.**

**THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS EVIDENCE OF THE COMPELLING NEED AND URGENCY WITH WHICH WE NEED TO WORK WITH SOUTHERN AFRICANS TO ADDRESS THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF APARTHEID.**

### Angola goes ahead with oil contracts

The government will soon award two oil exploration contracts, according to energy minister Albina Africano, who also said western oil companies were preparing to invest in oil exploration there. In a recent trip to London, Ms. Africano attempted to persuade ministers to apply pressure on UNITA to return to the negotiating table. UNITA captured the oil town of Soyo in May, destroying storage facilities and halting production.

Although the country has returned to war, foreign investors appear to judge the situation stable enough to make investments in the oil industry. Royal Dutch/Shell, Total and Agip already have deep-water blocks off Angola's shore. Chevron is investing \$500 million, and the government hopes to sign contracts by September with Exxon and British Petroleum for deep-water exploration. (*British Financial Times*, 7/8/93)

### Anthrax, cholera used during Rhodesian war

For the first time, a former member of the rebel Rhodesian armed forces has admitted that anthrax and cholera, two banned biological warfare weapons, were used by the Rhodesian forces on blacks during the seven-year war that led to independence.

The anthrax spore was used to kill cattle belonging to people in areas where they were suspected of supporting the guerrillas. At the height of the independence war, between 1978 and 1980, Zimbabwe was hit by an anthrax outbreak affecting over 10,000 people, leaving at least 182 dead.

The forces also polluted water points close to the guerrilla camps with cholera in neighbouring Mozambique. A special military unit contaminated foodstuff with thallium and impregnated clothes with organophosphates. At Chibabawa camp in Mozambique, some 200 Zimbabwean refugees suffered from mysterious haemorrhages, which were later determined by the World Health Organization to have been caused by a rat poison. (*Facts and Reports*, July 1993)

### War rampaging Angola

The Angolan government refused an OAU offer for an armed African peacekeeping force, stating it was "inappropriate" and "unnecessary" since "Angolan sovereignty is not in peril". The UN special envoy to Angola, Alouine Beye, said up to 1,000 people are dying daily from fighting and war-induced famine and that 2 million people, a fifth of the population, are threatened by starvation. Angolan state radio announced that government troops were closing in on UNITA rebels' central stronghold, Huambo, located about 330 miles east of Luanda. (*Boston Globe*, 08/25/93, 08/31/93)

### Angola: contradictions continue

Ironically, transnational corporations seeking to protect their regional oil interests by promoting stability supply the little military aid the MPLA-led government receives. In March 1993, a British oil company hired 100 mercenaries through the South African security consultant firm, Executive Outcomes, to protect privately owned Soyo-based oil installations. Texaco transported the mercenaries on its own ship and maintains enough company helicopters to evacuate them in one load. On March 7th, two of these mercenaries were killed in combat with UNITA, and the three wounded were flown out of southeastern Angola to Windhoek for medical treatment. (*CovertAction*, No.45 Summer 1993)

### Creating a new and bold destiny

There is a widespread and strong feeling among Namibians that although fundamental issues like land distribution remain to be addressed, the future is finally in their hands and not in the power of Western occupying forces. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia in Windhoek reported that Namibians feel their destiny is linked entirely to what happens in the neighboring countries. (*Prexy Nesbitt, Southern Africa Trip Report*, 8/93)

Editors: Karin Candelaria, Jenny Dahlstein, Heeten Kalan, and Prexy Nesbitt. Subscriptions: \$5 low-income, \$10 regular income/organizations.

**Mozambique Solidarity Office**  
343 S. Dearborn, Suite 318  
Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 922 3915

## SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWS BRIEFS

### Raid Before the Peace Prize

Days before the announcement of Nelson Mandela and F.W. De Klerk winning the Nobel Peace Prize, five young people were killed when South African Defence Force (SADF) troops raided a home in Umtata purportedly used by a black nationalist group. De Klerk authorized the raid.

The Pan African Congress, the declared target of the attack, said the house was the home of a Congress member who wasn't there when the troops burst in about 1:00 a.m. The member's three children and their two cousins were shot in the head at point blank range.

There were no weapons in the house. Documents seized in the raid and handed to newspapers as "evidence" of the Azanian Peoples Liberation Army's (APLA) presence appeared to be childish scribbles of no military value.

This attack comes at a time when the representatives of the APLA, the SADF and the South African Police were due to meet specifically to discuss the issue of the mutual cessation of hostilities.

(Weekly Mail, PAC press statement)

### Time Bomb in Namibia

Hundreds of tons of unstable explosives and ammunition left over from the Namibian war are threatening the existence of the northern Namibian town of Grootfontein.

According to a report from Colonel Des Radmore of the Namibian Defence Department, the explosives formed part of SWAPO stockpiles in Angola. After independence the explosives were transported to an old military base at Grootfontein. The report says radio transmission waves, bush fires, or even a small object dropped into open ammunition boxes could result in an explosion that would cause major damage and loss of life in the town.

Since the report was submitted Colonel Des Radmore has been fired.

(Weekly Mail)

### Mozambican Refugees in South Africa Assisted

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and South Africa signed an agreement in

September allowing UNHCR to exercise its protection and assistance mandate for all refugees in South Africa.

300,000 Mozambican refugees in South Africa will be the first to benefit from the agreement. The UNHCR has already assisted Mozambican refugees to return from Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Swaziland. The return of all 1.5 million Mozambican refugees will take at least three years.

(UN press release)

### Angola's Civil War Continues

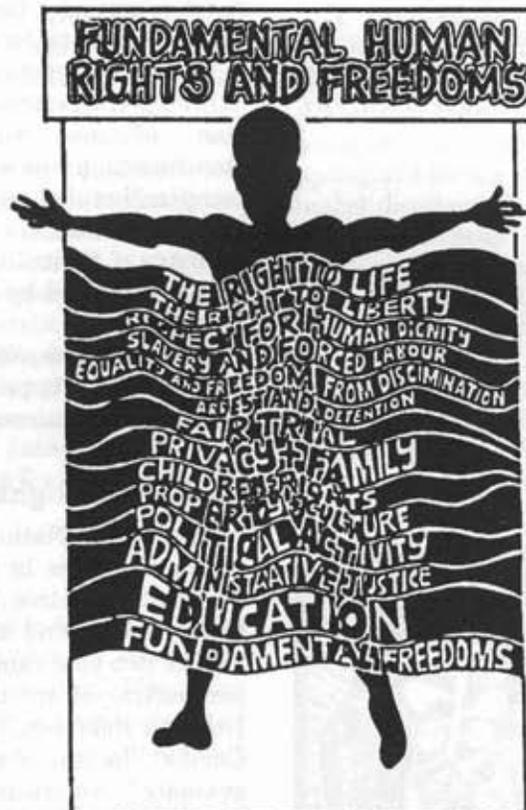
President Clinton is preparing to appoint a special envoy to help end Angola's civil war which the UN estimates is causing 1,000 deaths daily. The US has no soldiers in Angola. The US envoy's task would be to assist

UN mediators seeking a formula for peace between the government of President dos Santos and the UNITA forces of rebel Savimbi.

Savimbi returned to fighting after refusing to accept the 1992 election results. In the past, fighting between UNITA and the government was predominantly a guerrilla bush war. This time, the victims are residents of towns and cities. In addition to killing thousands of people, mostly civilians, the last year of war has inflated food prices beyond the reach of people once considered middle class. As a result, this potentially prosperous country has been reduced to subsistence farming and barter.

Relief workers lament that the West, which invested so much in arming Angola during the Cold War era, now pays little attention to its pain.

(Washington Post, NY Times)



Legal Assistance Center, Namibia

### South Africa Human Rights Report

The Human Rights Commission report for August 1993 declared, "It was another disastrous month for peace in South Africa with 554 deaths. The average daily death rate is now 18, more than double the average for the last three years."

Among the August victims were 33 train and vehicle commuters. 33 women, 11 children, and 23 members of the Security Forces. The number of detentions without trial now exceeds 500 for the year.

(Human Rights Commission)

## SOUTHERN AFRICA CHURCH NEWS

### Much Good Has Taken Place

In a statement issued after their September, 1993 meeting, the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa gave thanks to God for "much good that has taken place since our last meeting." The good included:

- the negotiations have gone forward with an increasing urgency;
- a date for a general election has been set;
- the details for a Transitional Executive Council, Electoral Council and the Public Broadcasting Authority have been accepted;
- a day of peace gave us all a glimmer of hope;
- the peace initiatives have saved us from even worse violence;
- peace initiatives in Mozambique are starting to take effect;
- Lesotho has had a successful election;
- Namibia is in a state of reconstruction and growth;
- the election process in Swaziland has got under way.

*(Synod of Bishops Statement)*

### WCC to Meet in South Africa

The World Council of Churches Central Committee will meet near Johannesburg in January, 1994. According to WCC General Secretary Konrad Raiser, the meeting has a "highly symbolic value." He noted, "For many years it was impossible for the WCC to meet in South Africa. Now we feel that coming here is the best way to express our very strong solidarity."

*(EPS)*



John Muafangejo



### Namibian Council Launches Agricultural Services

Four agricultural extension service centers have been established by the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN). The centers, established at Ruuga, Rupara, Kaisosi, and Nxaute, assist farming communities in improving plant production.

The centers stock seeds and veterinary drugs and run short courses for farmers. In areas along the Kavango River, project extension officers will assist communities in setting up vegetable gardens.

The project employs 28 Namibian agricultural extension officers and three Danish expatriates. Danchurchaid has supported rural agricultural development in Namibia since 1990. When the project comes to an end in 1994, the staff will be incorporated into the Ministry of Agriculture's extension services and all facilities constructed by CCN will be taken over by the government.

The CCN has made it clear that in setting up extension centers, it is performing a government function.

*(Namibia Ecumenical News Agency)*

### US Human Rights Campaign Announced

A United Nations campaign focusing on human rights violations in the US will be launched December 10-12 at the Native American Community in Pine Ridge, South Dakota and in Birmingham, Alabama.

The two year campaign will evaluate the US from the perspective of international human rights standards. Deborah Robinson, coordinator of the WCC Program to Combat Racism, stated, "The US hasn't been critically evaluated. Americans think of human rights violations as a problem elsewhere."

The campaign plans to continue with educational events, hearings by an international eminent persons group in 1994, and presentation of findings to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1995.

*(EPS)*

### SACC Calls for Peace Corps

The South African Council of Churches is calling for the establishment of a national Peace Corps which will involve all the youth of the country in active programs of community service and peace-making.

*(SACC Communications)*

## CALENDAR OF ACTION AND REFLECTION



### December 10, International Human Rights Day:

Set aside time to respond to the advocacy page of this newsletter.

### January 17, Dr. Martin Luther King Day:

Incorporate prayers for South Africa and its upcoming elections into Dr. King services.

### Tit for tat and butter for fat

A person who  
brutalizes another  
will become an animal

A man who  
hates  
will be hated

Whoever  
kills  
will die of the sword

A woman  
who mocks  
will be ridiculed

A race  
that crushes another  
will be razed to the ground

Whoever  
sows the seeds of fear  
will himself flee from a fly

They cannot sleep  
for they know  
that we are not asleep.

*Tshenuwani S. Farisani,*  
from *Justice In My Tears, Africa World Press*

### The Black Madonna

Soweto sprawls beneath the stars  
While Herod sleeps  
Although they're late, the hours he keeps  
In curfew's caution  
And, earned in dreams of other roads  
I never told him  
That I had found the Infant Christ....  
Black arms enfold Him.  
What, black? What notion?  
The dust had settled, satin-soft  
On dongas, quilted  
Above the little shoe-box house  
The Star had halted.  
I came from far, I know, a trembling stranger  
But might I not approach and touch  
that holy manger?

O Woman! You whose lips are rich  
Whose breasts are luscious  
Would you refuse my starving soul  
This gift so precious?  
This black-skinned bundle  
This Christ to fondle?  
She held him close, she held him fast  
A continent in cradle  
The cloud by day, the fire by night  
The Truth behind the Fable  
Before the dawn, the winds grew wild  
The seething dust unfurled  
But, the night I came upon her  
She held the child  
She held the World  
That Black Madonna.

*Maria Mackay, OP from Cry Justice, Orbis*



### **STAY CONNECTED!**

Yes, I want to become/remain part of the Southern Africa Network-ELCA and receive the newsletter, *Southern Africa*, regularly. Enclosed is my annual membership fee.

Individual (\$25)

Synodical Group (\$50)

Organization/Congregation (\$100)

Here is an additional contribution

Send me more information on SAN

I am particularly interested in the following issues/countries \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Southern Africa Network-ELCA, 1821 West Cullerton Street, Chicago, IL 60608 (312) 421-5513

# NETWORK NOTES

SAN members Donna Weishoff and Jim Moore of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin invited SAN to the Synod Resource Fair at Marion, WI in mid October. In addition to bringing our display, Molefe Tsele led a workshop, taught South African hymns, and led the closing worship. Molefe and Joan were thankful for the invitation to share about Southern Africa and that the invitation coincided with the beautiful fall colors in Wisconsin.

At its fall meeting, the SAN steering committee supported continuing the Prayer Watch Campaign, recommended that representatives go to South Africa as election monitors in 1994, and initiated a youth writing contest on racism in US and South Africa. More information will be available soon.

SAN Steering Committee Member Dennis Frado of the Lutheran Office for World Community reported on a breakfast meeting with President Chissano of Mozambique. While a "relative peace" holds in that country, the president spoke of a national reconstruction plan to rebuild the infrastructure "social tissue"—homes for orphans, new schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, factories.

President Chissano said that while help was needed, he did not want NGOs to "come to substitute for the government." Rather, they should help the government with its own programs, because "Mozambicans learn fast."

Chicago has been blessed with visits from Southern African Christians this fall. In September SAN co-hosted an evening with Father Albert Nolan of the Institute for Contextual Theology, Father Nolan is the editor of the Institute's magazine, *Challenge*. He talked about producing an ecumenical magazine for South Africa. We hope you note inviting changes in this newsletter as a result of that evening.

In October SAN invited members to a roundtable discussion with Rev. Frank Chikane, General secretary of the South African Council of Churches. You are able to listen in via this issue's first page article.

Dr. Peter Katjavivi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia (UNAM), along with Dr. Hugh Africa, Dean of Studies, and Judy Diers, International Liaison Officer, passed through Chicago in October. During

a luncheon at the church wide offices, Dr. Katjavivi spoke enthusiastically of the upcoming Visiting Instructors Program of the ELCA Division for Higher Education. Not only did the University of Namibia inherit a deficit of millions of dollars from South Africa, it also inherited some faculty that discourages rather than encourages the students. The Vice-Chancellor contrasted them to the instructors in the US Lutheran Colleges who accepted 100 Namibian students in the past years, "They took our students where they were and gave them an education." For that reason the university is looking forward to the arrival of nine professors in 1994 who will spend their sabbaticals teaching at UNAM.



Father Albert Nolan

**Southern Africa is edited by Joan Gerig.  
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