

# *Educators Against Racism And Apartheid*

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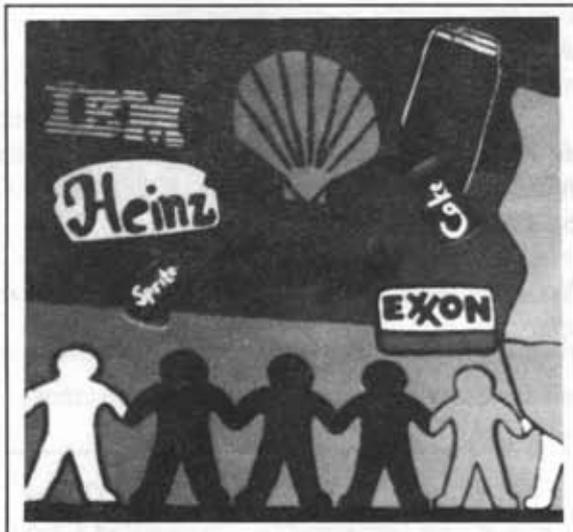
164-04 Goethals Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432

## *Students Speak Out!*

The point of this mural is that everyone of every race or religion should join hands and work together to end apartheid. The right side is designed to show the evils of apartheid such as violence and poverty and those who struggle to overcome them. The left side shows how apartheid survives economically - by the taxes paid to the apartheid regime by foreign companies. It also symbolizes that greed is the reason these companies continue to remain in SA.



*Remember Soweto - End Apartheid Mural at Teaneck High School*



*Corporations doing business with apartheid, South Africa.*

The center depicts a hungry child superimposed over Southern Africa. The sun symbolizes the power of the people united against apartheid and hope that freedom will come soon. The mural painted by Page Ware's first period art class at Teaneck High School in Teaneck, NJ. Article by David Bower



*The repression and the fightback in South Africa*

## *Remember Soweto*

### *Oops, we goofed!*

In the May newsletter there was an article in which EARA inadvertently quoted the author Joseph Reilly as stating that "soldiers were shot at with apartheid South Africa's ammunition and equipment." There is no evidence that this occurred. It should have stated, "Had the ground offensive in the Gulf War deteriorated into a bloody war of attrition, the disproportionate number of African-American troops in the front lines would have been attacked with apartheid SA's ammunition and equipment."

Also, we inadvertently turned a semi-colon into a colon, changing the meaning of a sentence. It should have read, "As it stands, the US has Israel training a variety of destabilizing forces through grants of the US Endowment for Democracy; the terrorist 32nd Battalion- previously used as an anti-civilian goon-squad against Namibians and Angolans- has been relocated to Natal, given land and South African citizenship; US Special Forces are illegally fighting alongside UNITA in combat roles against the barely surviving Angolan gov't...etc"

This is merely a listing of a variety of issues that are challenging the liberation movement and threatening the region. Each is not inclusive of the other. Sorry for the error!

### *New York City Divests \$562 Million*

The New York City Employees Retirement System divested \$562 million in 1990, continuing a trend that has already seen billion of dollars divested from companies with ties to South Africa!

***Keep the pressure on!***

***NO justice under apartheid. Free Winnie Mandela!***

### **HUNGER STRIKES RETURN TO APARTHEID'S JAILS**

Hunger strikes have started in at least six of South Africa's prisons. Over 360 political prisoners vowed to starve themselves to death until the gov't meets its agreement to release all political prisoners.

For the last year the minority gov't promised that by April 30 all political prisoners would be released. But April 30th has come and gone leaving behind some 2,200 political prisoners in South Africa's jails. Like so many other agreements and promises publicly made by de Klerk and his ministers, the difference between words and action is like black and white, and in between apartheid remains.

Many of you responded to the April call for action regarding political prisoners. The effect was clear: More prisoners were released in April alone than in the previous 12 months!

*From the Africa Fund. May, 1991*

#### ***Activities For Your Class***

***Call President Bush. Ask that he publicly demand the de Klerk regime honor its promises and release all political prisoners immediately. (202) 456-1111 Fax: (202) 456-2461***

***Publicize this tragedy on your local radio, TV and newspapers.***

***March in your local Soweto Day demonstration.***



# BOOK REVIEW

## At The Crossroads

Enough money for one book about on South Africa? At The Crossroads, by Rachel Isadora, is definitely it. This simple story of shantytown children eagerly assembling at the crossroads to greet their fathers returning from the mines presents numerous opportunities for readers to raise their own questions about life in South Africa.

Isadora's powerful illustrations show corrugated tin shacks with no plumbing, dirt roads filled with puddles, and children walking to school without shoes or books. This book resonates with the vitality and energy of the shantytown residents despite their living under the horrors of apartheid.

Rachel Isadora has a created a wonderfully warm, poignant story of shantytown children in South Africa waiting for their fathers to return home from the mines after ten months of hard labor.

At The Crossroads, by Rachel Isadora. Greenwillow Press.  
105 Madison Avenue. New York, NY 10016.

*Book review by Karel Kilimnik, Charles Drew School. Philadelphia, PA*



# Housing Apartheid Violence

South Africa's most recent surge of political violence has highlighted another legacy of apartheid: the hostel system. During the fall of 1990 KwaZulu bantustan Chief Gatsha Buthelezi used the hostels around Johannesburg as a springboard for a bloody campaign of national recognition. Weekly death counts numbered in the hundreds. The continuing analysis of the violence as "black on black" ignores the fact that the hostels are part of a deliberate policy designed to provide white South Africa with cheap politically powerless black labor and restrict the movement of African workers.

Migrant labor like apartheid itself was born in the gold mines. African workers were forced to come to seek work in the urban centers. The gov't and corporate South Africa was pleased to be supplied with cheap exploitable African workers but of course could not allow a large permanent black presence in the towns. A solution was found: a network of single-sex dormitories built to house migrant workers only. *There are more than 130 such hostels housing nearly 200,000 people in the 31 black townships around Johannesburg alone!* Rent is about \$6 a month for a room shared with 3 other people and segregated by ethnic grouping. The majority of the workers living in the hostels are married, but are classified as single by the gov't to permit them to live in areas prohibited to married African men.

At a glance, the hostels seem nothing but jails. Long corridors lit by a single bulb, no heat or ventilation no matter what time of the year. Most hostels are now equipped with one modern convenience, electrically controlled steel doors which are used to seal off sections from one another. Disturbances on a major scale are a daily occurrence in and around the hostels turning the surrounding townships into battle zones where residents are fighting and dying *in the hundreds*.

The Zulu speaking migrants are the most numerous group in the hostels and Inkatha as



A typical hostel for migrant workers in South Africa. Photo by Eli Weinberg.

tried to bolster its claim to national stature by intimidating hostel residents into joining it. Using the hostels as a recruitment base, Inkatha organizes attacks on ANC-supporting residents and township residents. Assistance comes from neighboring hostels, which are being used as weapons and ammunition depots. The police fan the violence by disarming ANC supporters and supporting armed Inkatha thugs both passively and actively.

As part of their effort to end the violence, the ANC and the labor federation COSATU have called for the end of the migrant labor system.

*From The Africa Fund, April, 1991*

## *Classroom activities*

- 1. Discuss the concept of migrant labor. What is the impact on African families? Why are white miners allowed to live with their families?*
- 2. Discuss migrant labor in the United States.*
- 3. Paint a mural on butcher paper opposing the migrant labor laws in SA. Send a photo of it to EARA.*
- 4. Write to President Bush calling on him to maintain sanctions until apartheid laws are scrapped.*

# *Are U.S. Guns Ending Up in South Africa?*

*by Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta The Washington Post*

"As violence continues unabated in South Africa, U.S. officials are investigating whether shotguns from the U.S. have found their way into SA, violating the spirit of sanctions against that country.

Authorities are looking at some U.S. companies that have been shipping shotguns and accessories to SA. A 1986 law prohibits the shipment of guns, among other things, to SA as a protest of apartheid.

Reports of 1990 U.S. exports show that at least three companies shipped guns or accessories to SA - Jonas Aircraft and Arms of New York, Nosler Bullets of Oregon and Mossberg International of Connecticut. All three have told Federal authorities that the guns were shipped through Cape Town, but that the final destinations were other countries.

In the last four years, various U.S. manufacturers have shipped more than 50 tons of arms through Cape Town, claiming

that all the shipments were headed to Zimbabwe...

Anti-apartheid activists suspect that the shotguns, designed for game hunting, are turned against SA's blacks. Recent violence has justified their fears. In November, reports surfaced of an attack by white extremists on black mine workers near Johannesburg. The whites used a variety of weapons, including shotguns...

Sanctions have been compromised before. For example, the U.S. imported \$350 million worth of SA steel in 1987 and 1988, despite the sanctions law. SA clothes and food find their way to the US, and oil goes the other way. Vague language in the sanctions law and lax enforcement have allowed the US to remain one of SA's biggest trading partners.

...The reason for the new attitude is Pres. de Klerk, who has vowed to eliminate racism in SA. But so far, apartheid has only been modified. It is too soon to start rewarding the gov't in a big way for small steps."

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## *Activities for your class*

- 1. Compare the U.S. government's policy on sanctions against South Africa and Iraq? Why is there such a difference?*
- 2. Join the June 19 National Lobby Day as part of the Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of South Africa's Soweto Uprising. Have students and your co-workers write letters to Congressmembers and to President Bush calling on the U.S. to MAINTAIN SANCTIONS. Also, call on them to stop the sanctions busting. For info. on the 1986 Sanctions Law or info. on speakers, films and current events in SA, call the Washington Office on Africa at (202) 546-7961.*
- 3. Clip news articles about the violence in South Africa. Discuss the possible role of the South African government in supporting the violence against the liberation movement.*

# Resources

## Nelson Mandela "No Easy Walk To Freedom"

a biography by Barry Denenberg. Scholastic, Inc. New York, 1991. \$2.95. Why not purchase a class set of this book for your junior high or high school classes?

## Toyi Toyi Mix, record and poster.

African National Congress Choir. Includes Nkosi Sikelel'I-Africa (nat'l anthem), Mahubenjalo, Toyi Toyi Beat. AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS CHOIR. International Defense and Aid Fund. IDAF. 64 Essex Road. London H1 8LR. Tel: 071-359 9181. Fax: 071-354 4266. IDAF has an extensive list of publications about Southern Africa!

Looking for alternative Quincentennial activities?

## The Connection

Central America Resource Center  
1407 Cleveland Avenue North  
St. Paul, MN 55108

The newsletter has an article "500 Years of Resistance" and a list of information about alternative Quincentennial resources and activities. Why not spend time this summer preparing for your school's alternative Columbus Day events!

## In South Africa: The Bloody Campaign Against Organized Labor

The Africa Fund. 198 Broadway. NYC, NY 10038. March, 1991. \$.30 each, over twenty, \$.15 each. This fact sheet is important for you to purchase in bulk for members of your union or for a class in labor history.

## AFRICA IS NOT A COUNTRY IT'S A CONTINENT!

by Dr. Arthur Lewin and his students from his college class! This is a hands-on book with lots of activities for young people. \$12. Bulk rates available. Clarendon Publishing Co. Suite 125. People's Plaza. 100 Ryders Lane. Milltown, NJ 08850.

## Apartheid Is Wrong: A Curriculum For Young People by Paula Rogovin Bower.

Send \$17. + \$5 postage & handling to:  
Educators Against Racism and Apartheid.  
164-04 Goethals Ave. Jamaica, NY 11432  
Grades 1 - 12 and adult. All subject areas.



# Warning - Disconnect From BOOK - IT!

Dear Friends,

"Having just read your news release, "1492-1192: America's Largest Motivational Reading Program Lauds Columbus' Sense of Direction," we applaud your desire to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of geography among American children. However, we are genuinely disappointed by the method chosen to "emphasize geography during the program's 7th year: namely, the direct link to the Columbus Quincentenary.

As principal drafters of the enclosed resolution approved last summer by the 50,000-member American Library Association, we urge you to either disconnect the BOOK IT program from the Quincentenary or substantially change your approach and terminology, which at present are at once Eurocentric and racist. Columbus, for instance, did not "discover" the "New World."...The very language employed in your news release reflects a totally biased, European-centered perspective, in effect denying the humanity, civilization, and extensive history of America's indigenous peoples. Further, the celebratory tone of the release is sadly unwarranted, for the European arrival proved, in fact, to be a deadly invasions resulting in massive damage to whole peoples, lands, and cultures, both in the Americas and Africa.

If impossible to fully abandon the Quincentenary tie-in, we ask that you at least treat the "commemoration" in a much more sober and evenhanded way, according proper attention to the experience and concerns of Native, Black, Latino, and Asian Americans.

With best wishes,

Sanford Berman

Christopher Dodge

Minnesota Librarians For Peace And Justice

*If your school belongs to BOOK-IT, Educators Against Racism And Apartheid calls on you to Disconnect from or boycott the program. Please write to the Children's Book Council, Inc. ( 350 Scotland Road, Orange, NJ 07050) to protest and to demand a change. Your colleagues may not agree with you about this. Why not have a workshop about this issue!*

*Librarians should contact Sanford Berman (4400 Morningside Road. Edina, MN 55416). He is an activist in the librarians movement and has a wealth of information to share with activists. He has fought consistently against racism in the libraries - from selection of books to cataloging.*

## ***Please join Educators Against Racism And Apartheid!***

EARA is dedicated to education and action to end apartheid. Your membership is welcome. We urge you to pay your \$10 membership donation as soon as possible. Because printing and mailing costs are very high, we regret that we will have to remove some names from the mailing list. Thank you very much to those who have sent in the membership donations and the extra contributions.

I want to join Educators Against Racism and Apartheid.

I want to renew my membership to EARA.

I want to make a contribution to EARA.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to Educators Against Apartheid. Send to Educators Against Racism And Apartheid. 164-04 Goethals Avenue. Jamaica, NY 11432. For more information about EARA, please call (201) 836-6644.*

*Board of Directors: Paula Bower, James Campbell, Arthur Colen, Joyce Duncan, Joseph Edelman, Pam McCarthy- Bamba, Rebekah Richie-Pagan, Carole Storch Dladla, Claudia Zaslavsky.*

**TO PASS  
THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT  
YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHICH  
BUTTONS TO PUSH**

**1-900-370-FAIR**

All hard working Americans need the Civil Rights Act of 1991 because it reaffirms the basic value that our nation stands for -- equal opportunity for everyone. For every day that passes without the law restored and loopholes closed, working men and women go unprotected from unfair treatment on the job.

In order to help pass the Civil Rights Act of 1991, please call the number above. When you do pre-written postcards expressing your support for the bill will be sent to your Senators and Representative. \$3.00 will be charged to your next phone bill.

**All Americans need the Civil Rights Act of 1991.**

Educators Against Racism And Apartheid  
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Jamaica, NY 11432

Free all political prisoners NOW!  
Maintain Sanctions!