

THE SEATTLE COALITION  
IN SOLIDARITY WITH BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN RESISTANCE

A call for the City of Seattle to end all ties with South Africa. Once again, the world is watching South Africa. Watching a replication of what Dennis Brutus has called "Bullet-In-The-Back Days." As witness to the brutal suppression of recent uprisings in South Africa, the Seattle Coalition in Solidary with Black South African Resistance is gathering to picket the Hillside Drive residence of Mr. J. F. Swing, delegated South African Consul.

The continuing operation of this consulate abutting the Central District offers an insult to the Black Community of Seattle, and to all decent people who believe in freedom. The Coalition believes that the majority of people of Seattle, having voted positively for Initiative 28 against U.S. Intervention in Central America, would applaud our presence here today.

This demonstration marks the anniversary of the martyrdom of Steve Biko, Black Leader and organizer of the "Black Consciousness Movement" in South Africa, who was murdered in detention on September 12, 1977. The consul cannot hide in his residence from the Biko legacy, which lives still in the fierce insurrectionary spirit of the people - so many of them school children. Over the past few months, over fifty persons have been killed, and scores more wounded - most recently in the massive strike of gold miners, whose contract labor is a form of slavery that vastly enriches the white minority. Thousands have died over the years beneath the absolute power of the white minority regime, from torture and imprisonment, from the gunfire of police and deputized "storm troopers" - from malnutrition and disease, from resettlement in barren "homelands"; from the despair of separated families, from mining catastrophies. Millions have suffered under the racist apartheid humiliations of pass laws, the lack of representation as a majority, homelessness in their own land, the servitude of cheap labor, and the absolute control by the white minority over their destinies.

As people of consciousness, and as a people who believe in freedom - and in our efforts to support the resistance movement in South Africa - we know that the problems and strikes in South Africa today are not merely the results of the sham constitution (over 80% of the Asian and "coloured" population boycotted the elections), or as a result of rent hikes, or the degrading education for black children. These problems represent another stage of the resistance and the struggle against the entire fascist and racist system of apartheid and for the liberation of all South Africa. While Black South Africans die, the white minority of South Africa, bulwarked by the economic investments and trade of its two largest partners, the United States and Britain, has one of the highest standards of living in the world.

We will oppose with all our strength and resources this outrageous form of injustice. And, we demand the following:

- 1) That the City of Seattle take steps to close down the business of this consulate acting on behalf of the outlaw regime of apartheid and genocide;
- 2) That the City of Seattle adopt legislation similar to legislation adopted by other cities in the nation which would uphold internationally recognized economic sanctions against South Africa, including:
  - the banning of gold "Krugerrands" sales and liquor and other food products in local outlets.
  - the end of the promotion of tourism.
  - complete divestment by corporate, universities and banking interests in the City of Seattle.

The Seattle Coalition in Solidarity with Black South African Resistance stands united with the oppressed majority in their fight against racism and facism. The Coalition calls on the City of Seattle to break each and every existing link with the ruthless apartheid regime:

NO MORE SOUTH AFRICAN CONSULATE IN SEATTLE!