AFRICA NETWORK

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ACTION ALERT

IN RESPONSE TO REVEREND ALLAN BOESAK'S ARREST ON AUGUST 27 WITHOUT CHARGES, UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, FOR WHICH HE IS BEING JAILED IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT WITHOUT TRIAL OR RELEASE DATE SPECIFIED, AFRICA NETWORK URGES ALL FRIENDS TO FORWARD THE ENCLOSED MESSAGES WITH YOUR SIGNATURE TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER
LOUIS LE GRANGE
UNION BUILDING
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

YACOUB/UDF (message specified as COPY FOR UDF)
407 SMITH STREET, SUITE 501
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

PLEASE SEND COPIES OF THIS RELEASE AND MESSAGES TO FRIENDS AND LOCAL MEDIA CONTACTS URGENTLY TO ENSURE AS WIDE A CIRCULATION AS POSSIBLE.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS MUCH NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!

IN SOLIDARITY,

Yodeta Bee Holly

YODETA BEE HOLLY
SECRETARY, AFRICA NETWORK

ENCLS./

ALSO ENCLOSED FOR YOUR REFERENCE FOR EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH ARE FLYERS ON:

1) UDF T-SHIRTS

2) FILM: ALLAN BOESAK: CHOOSING FOR JUSTICE

PLEASE CIRCULATE THESE MATERIALS IN YOUR COMMUNITIES.

MANY THANKS.

AS THE DECISION ABOUT SANCTIONS AGAINST APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA BY THE UNITED STATES IS DUE TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM CAPITOL HILL WITHIN THE WEEK, WE URGE ALL FRIENDS TO SEND TELEGRAMS TO YOUR CONGRESSMEN & SENATORS AS WELL AS PRESIDENT REAGAN URGING FOR SANCTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AGAINST APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA. AS FORMER PRIME MINISTER VORSTER STATES: EACH NEW INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA IS A NEW BRICK IN THE WALL OF OUR (APARTHEID GOVT.) CONTINUED EXISTENCE.

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"Allan Boesak: Choosing for Justice"

a film by Hugo Cassirer and Nadine Gordimer

narrated by James Earl Jones, interviews by Joseph Lelyveld

"To preach the word of God relevantly in South Africa is to walk through a minefield--blindfolded."
Allan Boesak

In 1982, a 37-year old "coloured" minister in the "coloured" section of the segregated Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa, was elected president of the 70 million member World Alliance of Reformed Churches. His name was **Allan Boesak**.

At that same meeting, at which he was elected, he successfully moved that apartheid be declared a heresy.

Overnight, because of this young preacher in its midst, the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa found itself an outcast of the world Reformed community.

Apart from the religious significance of the declaration, there were and are important political implications. The Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa has provided the inspiration as well as the biblical justification for the ideology and practice of racism, which is fundamentally entrenched in the South African policy of apartheid. As a consequence, Allan Boesak's deep religious conviction in moving to get apartheid declared heretical, was also a bold political declaration.

Shot mainly in and around Cape Town, where Boesak lives, the film shows how a poor "coloured" boy, brought up to accept unquestioningly the dictates and practices of the Dutch Reformed Church, and later trained for the ministry in the church's segregated theological college, came to his present position as the premier challenger of that church's theology and its Christian ministry under apartheid.

The film includes an interview with the Reverend Beyers Naudé, banned and silenced for his opposition to apartheid, who, Boesak says in his own interview, was the white man who influenced him to stay within the Dutch Reformed Church and assert the Reformed tradition as one in which the Gospel of Jesus Christ is always on the side of the poor and oppressed-- in South Africa, the black people.

Boesak speaks openly on the question of the Christian conscience and the use of violence by liberation movements, as well as on violence by the state. He speaks on the tacit support of South Africa by the Western Democracies and of the relevance of action such as the international sports boycott against South Africa. He is also shown giving the launching address of the United Democratic Front before a crowd of 5,000, in August 1983. The Front, of which he was one of the founders, was formed to oppose South Africa's "New Constitution" which offers limited rights to "coloureds" and Indians while still excluding the black majority. The South African government has repeatedly tried to repress the United Democratic Front since its inception.

Allan Boesak emerges as a moving, remarkably attractive, filmic personality, with the graphic fluency of a Martin Luther King. The point of view of the film is that of a black South African, a voice speaking for the majority which has no access to the corridors of power, a voice that is rarely heard and should be heard.