

AFRICA NETWORK

Resources Information Action

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AFRICA NETWORK SALUTES THE COURAGE OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S ANTI-APARTHEID ALLIANCE AND ENDORSES ITS PRINCIPLED CALL FOR DIVESTMENT OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS INVESTED IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE PRAISE THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ENDORSEMENT OF THE ALLIANCE AND ITS APPEAL FOR AMNESTY FOR 95 STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

The consciences of students who have joined Northwestern University's Anti-Apartheid Alliance, as well as anti-apartheid groups on campuses across the country, are so unable to accept complicity with the apartheid government through financial investments that they are literally putting their lives on the line by organizing ongoing peaceful protests, rallies, demonstrations, educationals, and acts of civil disobedience which have led to thousands of arrests nationwide.

Through such direct action, the ethics of financial investments in apartheid South Africa are at issue.

South Africa is the only country in the world today that constitutionally mandates racism. It also has the highest per capita prison population worldwide.

In this country of 29 million, 4.5 million of whom are white, the 23 million blacks find themselves without any civil rights. Blacks have been denied even the rights of citizenship in their own country, in effect, declared foreigners in their native land because they are black.

Black South Africans are not allowed to vote, buy or sell land, live or work where they choose or move about freely. They must carry on their person, passbooks at all times, which can be demanded at any time, to be checked by the police. No white South Africans have passbooks. This device is an instrument devised by the apartheid government to maintain their minority rule and keep the majority in a state of powerlessness. Passbook violations result in arrest and prison.

Through the passbook system, rigid enforcement is maintained with respect to who and on what terms blacks may enter the white areas. Though many blacks are "imported" into the cities during the day, to serve as laborers and domestics, the cities must be white by night. Also, millions of South Africa's blacks are required, by law, to be employed as migrant workers which means leaving their homes and families and moving to the cities where they are forced to live in male only prison-like dormitories and are allowed to have family visits once a year.

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Those blacks who are fit to work, under apartheid law, are used as a work surplus to keep the country functioning. However, the old, weak, mothers and babies, who are unable to be employed; since they cannot be utilized by the economy become discarded and are dumped into the bantustans and, in effect, banished from any future form of livelihood or sustenance in their arid desert "homelands".

Education for South Africa's blacks is disgracefully inferior to that of their white counterparts. Nobel Peace Prize Bishop Desmond Tutu's daughter, Naomi, has launched a nationwide appeal for Sunday, June 16 "commemorating the massacre of one thousand students peacefully demonstrating against the introduction of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in South Africa's inferior "Bantu" education system." This June 16 marks the ninth anniversary of these racist massacres, "an excellent time to preach about the moral evils of Apartheid", Naomi explains.

The immorality of Apartheid South Africa's health care system is another blatant example of its evil nature. In CRIPPLING A NATION: HEALTH IN APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA, Aziza Seedat, M.D. documents how health care for non-whites "cripples" the nation. Hyman Hirshfield, M.D. in his book review of this text, states that "separate but most definitely not equal health services for blacks in South Africa is devastating to the majority of the non-white population... Malnutrition and infant mortality are much higher in the non-white population. Apartheid medical service extends, of course, to hospital care and ambulance service as well."

Legalized racism extends into the sporting arena as well. Blacks and whites are not legally entitled to compete together, or to train in the same facilities. Separate sport facilities are set aside for whites, superior by far, to those set aside for blacks. Although cosmetic integrated sporting events take place periodically, as long as the racist statutes legalizing segregated sport remain in Pretoria's law books, freedom in sport is nonexistent.

Sustenance of this heinous genocidal regime will remain as long as financial investments in South Africa continue to prop it up. Former Prime Minister Vorster has pronounced that each new investment is a new brick in the wall of our (Apartheid's) continued existence. Accordingly, to call for divestment in South Africa is a crime, punishable by arrest and imprisonment.

Despite these immoralities, the Journal of Commerce (March 26, 1984) reports, that the "US Regains Top Slot in South African Trade". Northwestern University, and college campuses across the country continue to pour millions of dollars worth of investments into apartheid South Africa which ensures the Pretoria regime of enough funds to continue its stranglehold racist minority rule.

At what price are the profits from investments in South Africa accrued? At the expense of the lives of South Africa's blacks and coloreds, **the discarded people**, for whom freedom and justice do not exist under apartheid law.

Reverend Allan Boesak, President of the World Council of Reformed Churches declares **apartheid a heresy** in his documentary film "**Choosing for Justice**". History attests to the fact that leaders of the apartheid government have served as collaborators with the Nazi regime.

How, we ask, can human beings of conscience, sanction investments in Apartheid South Africa?