

An Evening With

DENNIS BRUTUS

and

EPHAT MUJURU

presented by

Red and Black Books

in conjunction with

Africa Network

The Common Wealth Fund

The National Lawyers Guild

The National Conference of Black Lawyers

## Biographical Notes

DENNIS BRUTUS. Born in Zimbabwe (when it was still Rhodesia) to South African parents in 1924. High school teacher and coach in South Africa. Banned (from teaching, writing, publishing, attending social or political meetings, attending law school) under Suppression of Communism Act by South African government for anti-apartheid political activities in 1961. Arrested for violating ban in 1963. Subsequently shot in escape attempt and imprisoned at hard labor for eighteen months. Forced into exile from South Africa in 1966. Instrumental in getting South Africa expelled from Olympics in 1970. President of South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee and chairperson of the International Committee Against Racism in Sports. Professor in English Dept. at Northwestern U. since 1971. Poet whose works include: Letters to Martha (1968), A Simple Lust (1972), Stubborn Hope (1978), and Salutes and Censures (forthcoming). Founding chairperson of African Literature Association (U.S. org.). Awards include: Mbari Award for Poetry in Africa (1963), Freedom Writer's Award (1975), and Kenneth David Kaunda Award of Humanism (1979). Won right to political asylum in U.S. in 1983 after two year attempt by Reagan administration to deport him to Zimbabwe. Will be Visiting Professor of English Literature at Swarthmore College, 1985-86.

EPHAT MUJURU. Born in Zimbabwe in 1950. Founder and director, 1980-82, of the National Dance Troup of Zimbabwe. Visiting Lecturer, Dept. of Ethnomusicology, U. of Washington, 1982-present. Has appeared recently in musical performances in San Diego (Music of the World Concert, 1983), Montreal (solo concert, 1984), and New York City (Carnegie Hall concert of music from Zimbabwe, Senegal, and Ethiopia, 1984).

PROGRAM

Welcome.....Caryn Cline, Red & Black Books

Music.....EPHAT MUJURU

Introduction.....Selma Waldman,  
Africa Network

Poetry.....DENNIS BRUTUS

Intermission

South African politics.....DENNIS BRUTUS

Music.....EPHAT MUJURU

POLLSMOOR

PRISON  
RETREAT

'Somehow we survive'

S.A.

Somehow we survive  
and tenderness, frustrated, does not wither.

Investigating searchlights rake  
our naked unprotected contours;

over our heads the monolithic decalogue  
of fascist prohibition glowers  
and teeters for a catastrophic fall;

boots club the peeling door.

But somehow we survive  
severance, deprivation, loss.

Patrols uncoil along the asphalt dark  
hissing their menace to our lives,

most cruel, all our land is scarred with terror,  
rendered unlovely and unlovable;  
sundered are we and all our passionate surrender

but somehow tenderness survives.

Dennis Brutus  
Sirens Knuckles Boots, 1963

Credit: Kenyan wall hangings loaned by  
Njeri Njuguna, Seattle.



## THE ROLE OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS IN THE STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE SOUTH AFRICA (AZANIA)

Today in the United States the scales of ignorance, as regards South Africa (Azania) are being lifted from the eyes of millions of U.S. citizens. Where once people didn't have the slightest familiarity with Pretoria or Cape Town, they now struggle to understand Apartheid, and to place it in its true political economic context.

The excitement generated by the protests at the consulate offices of South Africa (Azania) around the country, and on the campuses of various universities investing in Apartheid is not being lost. It is calling into question this country's national values of commitment to democracy and majority rule. People are demanding to know, "Why economic sanctions are viable options when applied to Poland or Nicaragua, yet destructive and ineffective in the case of South Africa (Azania)?" That is, "Why is South Africa (Azania) allowed inclusion in the designation, 'Free World', when the majority of its citizens are denied the means to sustain life?"

In South Africa (Azania) there exists no democracy or self-determination for the vast majority of the people living within the traditional borders of that country. When we citizens of the United States are referenced to the new tricameral parliament of South Africa (Azania), it is our duty to reject it as a patent lie. How can there be change toward democracy when the very intent of that parliament is the continued and permanent disenfranchisement of the indigenous population of South Africa (Azania). Effecting nothing more than a cosmetic alteration, that only further entrenches the linchpin of Apartheid -- the bantustan or homeland policy.

There also exists the impression in some peoples minds that the struggle in South Africa is only a struggle against a more virulent form of the segregation which exists in this country. That is a very incorrect analysis. An analysis which we citizens in the United States must recognize and discredit. Especially, because 'Civil Rights' imply the existence of inalienable rights in all citizens of a country, as embodied in a constitution. A constitution which represents the legitimate aspirations of the people to be governed. In South Africa (Azania) the settler régime in power does not represent the legitimate aspirations of the totality of the people of South Africa (Azania). That is why the liberation struggle in South Africa (Azania) is not and cannot ever be characterized as just a struggle for 'Civil Rights'.

The contradiction is all too clear to be further ignored. The truth of the struggle for liberation in South Africa (Azania) must be brought to light. The people of the United States, thus have as their role the duty to stand for the freedom and liberation of South Africa (Azania). We as U.S. citizens must expose and publicize the super profits U.S. corporations make in South Africa (Azania) because of Apartheid. We citizens must hold the politicians accountable for a foreign policy that is consistent with this nation's professed values of democracy, majority rule and self-determination. And further, we living at the center of the industrialized world are duty bound to say no to the continued thuggery and criminality in South Africa (Azania). That we will no longer stand silently and witness the complicity of the multinationals and Western governments in the theft of South Africa's (Azania) wealth. That when the armed struggle intensifies, public opinion will not allow for the intervention of U.S. troops on the side of the Apartheid criminals.