
CHARLOTTEANS

FOR A



FREE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

CFSA

CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA is a local organization formed in March 1985 by residents of the Charlotte/Mecklenburg community who are concerned about the ongoing crisis in South Africa and neighboring countries. South Africa is ruled by a whites-only regime which denies to the country's black majority basic political and economic rights. CFSA is a non-profit membership organization seeking to lend its support to the struggle against the system of racist minority rule known as apartheid by making information about Southern Africa available in our community, helping end U.S. support for the minority regime, and raising funds to aid refugees, political prisoners and their families who are victims of the apartheid system.

Since its founding, CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA has organized a number of events to achieve those goals. In the Spring of 1985 a rally and petition drive designed to get North Carolina National Bank (NCNB) to stop making loans to South Africa were held, and later that year a vigil expressing solidarity with political prisoners and detainees as well as a rally supporting divestment (that is, the withdrawal of investment and business operations which provide material, financial and moral support to the white minority regime and which exploit the labor of underpaid black workers) took place.

CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA has sponsored several speakers who have come to share insights and information with citizens in our community. This includes a SWAPO (Southwest Africa Peoples Organization) representative to the United Nations, a leader of the End Conscription Campaign which opposes the draft of young South African men into the military apparatus supporting apartheid, and an exiled union leader formerly active in organizing black South African automobile workers. One of the most widely attended events hosted by CFSA was a Spring 1986 poetry reading by renowned South African poet Dennis Brutus.

In August 1986, CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA co-sponsored a luncheon attended by over 200 people to celebrate South Africa Women's Day and mark the contributions of women to the struggle against apartheid. Many of these community events have been co-sponsored with local churches, interest groups, and grass roots organizations that feel a responsibility to support efforts to withdraw all forms of support for the minority regime. Early in 1987, CFSA together with a local hunger relief group held "The Great Africa Cook-In" benefit banquet to raise funds for refugees from apartheid.

Ongoing activities include educational seminars designed to increase awareness about Southern Africa by analyzing key events, such as the importance of the recent corporate sales and withdrawals. In addition, through our Speaker Service both CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA members and visiting speakers - including exiles from South Africa and Namibia - have spoken at local churches, schools, meetings, showing films and sharing information with a broad cross-section of concerned people in our community.



Future plans include the expansion of CFSA's educational outreach in order to increase awareness of the crisis throughout the region dominated by South Africa and to keep abreast of events and of U.S. government and business involvement there. CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA recognizes that the apartheid regime hurts black and white South Africans, Namibians (whose country is illegally occupied by South African troops), and all those living in the frontline states (countries which border South Africa) whose territories continue to be bombed and raided by the South African military and South African backed mercenaries.

Last year, with the generous help of Charlotte/Mecklenburg residents, through fundraising events and the sale of books and other materials we raised and sent over \$1,000 to aid political prisoners and their families. Work in 1987 includes a fundraising campaign to benefit the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College in Tanzania. CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA has set a goal - and we hope you will help - to raise funds for the education of South African refugees fleeing apartheid and its inferior schools. Children from kindergarten through high school participate in an academic program and adults have the opportunity to learn vocational skills at the Freedom College. The school also has its own hospital and farm where students are trained in agricultural techniques and help to move the school toward total food self-sufficiency.

CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA invites all concerned people to lend their support to the struggle against racism and apartheid by supporting our efforts or by joining our group. Monthly meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Carolina Community Project office, 2300 E. 7th Street. Membership dues are \$3 per quarter (\$1 per month or \$12 per year). Donations are tax deductible and contributors can even choose, if they like, to pledge an amount to be paid monthly for a specified period of time. For more information, write us c/o Carolina Community Project, P.O. Box 9586, Charlotte, N.C. 28299, or call 372-0675.

If you would like to make a donation or pledge to CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA please fill out the form below and send to CFSA, c/o Carolina Community Project, 2300 E. Seventh Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28204

Check one:

I would like to pledge a tax deductible contribution totaling _____ to be paid monthly _____ (number) payments.

Check here if you would like to be billed).

I would like to make a donation.

Please put me on your mailing list to be informed about future CFSA events.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please make checks payable to **CFSA/CHOP**. Thank you.

Remember: CFSA has books and other reading material as well as T-shirts, buttons and bumper stickers available for purchase. Just write or call.

CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA is an Issue Group of the Charlotte Organizing Project (CHOP).

CHARLOTTE ORGANIZING PROJECT
C/O CAROLINA COMMUNITY PROJECT
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