

# AMA NDLA

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CHARLOTTEANS FOR A FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA P.O.BOX 35674 CHAR., N.C. 28235

## AFRICAN COOK-IN

On Friday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m. the 4th annual African Cook-In will be sponsored by Charlotteans for a Free Southern Africa. The Cook-In will be held at the Unitarian Church located at 234 N. Sharon Amity Road.

Our featured speaker this year is Sister Bernard Ncube, a native of Soweto, who was the first nun to be jailed for political offenses in South Africa. Because of her work protesting police brutality, she was held in solitary confinement for 16 months.

Sister Bernard Ncube is -a former representative of South African women to the United Nations,

-first president of the Federation of Transvaal Women,  
-President of the Federation of South African Women,  
-leader of the Institute for Contextual theology, a key organization promoting liberation theology in South Africa.

Sister Bernard Ncube is on a Spirit of a new South Africa Tour and we hope you will welcome her to Charlotte and listen to her message. Tickets to the Cook-In are \$12.50 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors and students, and \$5.00 for children under 17. They may be reserved by calling 331-0462.

## update

F. W. de Klerk visited the U. S. recently and received a warm welcome from President Bush. President Bush declared that developments in South Africa were irreversable, thus suggesting the possibility of the suspension of sanctions by the U. S. if the conditions stipulated in the 1986 Anti-Apartheid Act are met. That, of course, will allow South Africa reentry into the international community from which it was ostracised because of apartheid policies. The problem with President Bush's statement is that it is not justified by conditions on the ground and, therefore premature.

While de Klerk was in the U.S. deep conflicts were taking place in South Africa claiming the lives of hundreds of innocent people. The bloody conflict that has mistakenly been called "tribal" is essentially political in that it has pitted the conservative Inkatha movement led by Gatsha Buthelezi and supported by far right white vigilantes against organizations, like the ANC, that

have called for a fundamental change in the apartheid system. Evidence suggests that the de Klerk government has been turning a blind eye to the bloodshed especially since it saw this as a way of weakening the ANC and its allies. The belated draconian regulations that were imposed as a result of protests by progressive organization at government complicity have had the effect of stifling the important political organizing that the previously banned organizations were conducting. The result is that the situation is back to square one.

The situation in South Africa is far from being irreversible. Sanctions must be maintained until the negotiations are firmly underway, the legal pillars of apartheid such as the Group Areas Act, the various security legislations have been repealed. When the broad democratic movement has expressed satisfaction with these measures only then can there be any consideration for the revocation of sanctions.

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# NTHABISENG'S POEM

This poem is by Nthabiseng Mabuza. You remember her? She is the young woman who is a paraplegic and for whom we had a fundraiser early this year. Her condition is improving slowly but she still suffers from chronic pain for which she is receiving acupuncture treatment. Recently she appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show as part of the UNICEF program. We hope to get a copy of the video soon. It will be available for viewing.

Nthabiseng recently attended a writing workshop at Andover Academy. In the following poem, she addresses an issue close to her heart—the rights of children.

## CHILDREN OF SOUTH AFRICA WE REMEMBER

Watching the sun sink with Sad Souls,  
We remember those days long before you came.  
The times of love, respect— The times of joy.  
Times when we were as free as birds and could experience the beauty  
of nature, the beauty of our country. The times when we th  
children had the right and pleasure of growing up.

We remember when you first came, you too, free as a bird only  
from another forest. How our forefathers welcomed you with  
opened arms and helped you find comfort in your new surroundings.  
But we also remember how you repaid us— By seizing the land of  
our forefathers.

We remember with Bitterness, how you forced us off our land, how  
you treated our elders with disrespect. How you threw away and  
tried to make us forget our culture.  
We remember with Fear, how you took our fathers away from us, how  
you raped and beat our mothers, and took from us the meaning of  
Security.

We remember with Anger how, not wanting us to be equal or even  
better than your children, deprived us of education, our right to  
learn.  
We also remember how you brutally and shamelessly killed,  
imprisoned and tortured us— teenagers, eight-year olds and even  
younger; forcing many of us to leave the land that was once ours  
— and still is.

Yes! We remember  
how you prohibited that bird to fly freely  
in its own forest.  
And still remembering, hoping, dreaming and knowing, that Beauty,  
Love, Respect and the Joy, the Security that was once, will  
someday BE—

Because, we remembered.

Nthabiseng Mabuza

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*Ntabi Mabuza*