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SART COALITION ANNOUNCES PROTEST AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN  
GERRIE COETZEE'S AUGUST 9th FIGHT VS/ SNIPES

The Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour Coalition (SART) today denounced the staging of the fight between white South African fighter Gerrie Coetzee and black American Renaldo Snipes. The fight is scheduled for August 9th at the Westchester Theater in Tarrytown, New York.

It had been originally scheduled for Atlantic City but was moved in an apparent response to a call from ACCESS for demonstrations in Atlantic City. Judge William Booth, the Chairperson of the SART coalition, said that "this is a typical manouver of the South Africans. But the SART coalition is ready to protest this fight as part of our build-up for massive demonstrations when the South African Springbok rugby team comes in September. Therefore, we will have a demonstration outside of Gallagher's Restaurant on Tuesday, August 4th at noon. At that time a press conference will be underway inside the restaurant to introduce Coetzee to the American press. We want the press to know why Coetzee is not welcome in the United States."

Booth said that SART is particularly outraged by the fact that the fight is being held on the 25th Anniversary of South African Women's Day. On that day in 1956, 20,000 women staged one of South Africa's most historic demonstrations against apartheid as they marched in Pretoria. The United Nations General Assembly declared this as an official International Day of Solidarity with South African Women.

It was noted that South Africa had already attempted to use Coetzee in his two previous World Boxing Association heavyweight title shots against Mike Weaver and John Tate in South Africa. Coetzee, while an individual, has come to symbolize white South African sport, which is thoroughly racist.

Judge Booth said, "We want to hear Coetzee denounce apartheid and call for one-person, one-vote elections in South Africa in which the 87% of the people who now cannot vote would be able to do so freely. Coetzee cannot continue to say sports are apolitical because South Africa uses sports for political purposes. Coetzee must either join the anti-apartheid forces in South Africa or face the international consequences to his career that result from his support of apartheid. He is simply not welcome in the United States."

Further plans will be announced at Tuesday's demonstration.

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# Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour

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