

A Covenant with the Church and People of South Africa

STAND FOR TRUTH! Until South Africa is Free



Why Stand for Truth?

The people of South Africa are under siege. Since the imposition of national State of Emergency in 1986, the government's repression of internal opposition to apartheid has steadily become more brutal and bloody. In 1988 alone 32 organizations were banned, 55 popular leaders placed under severe restriction and an estimated 1,500 people were being held without charge - some for more than 1,000 days.

The churches in South Africa are at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid and the racist South African government. As peaceful paths to change were being closed off one-by-one, they launched a national "Standing for the Truth" campaign in May 1988 to "put pressure on the South African regime to abandon apartheid and participate in a negotiated settlement." As their first act, they called for a boycott of the October race-based municipal elections. Not long after, the offices of the South African Council of Churches were bombed and those of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference gutted by arson.

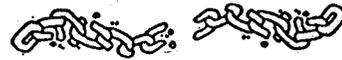
The forces against the church are not confining themselves to attacks on buildings. The South African government has threatened to "clip the wings" of outspoken church leaders. South African police have invaded churches, teargassing and beating church members. Ministers have been arrested and leading church figures, like Catholic Sister Bernard Ncube and Lutheran Dean Simon Farisani, have been detained repeatedly and tortured.

In the face of the level of evil in South Africa, the church leaders have no option but to raise their voices in protest and offer their bodies in sacrifice. As Reverend Frank Chikane, General-Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, has stated "I don't believe we can avoid the cross as a church now...For us to go over into victory we will have to go through the cross."

Challenge to the U.S. Church

South Africa's church leaders are not acting under illusions. They recognize the enormous forces of evil they are challenging and are aware of the vicious and brutal ways in which these forces will attempt to silence them. This is the path they have chosen.

But they cannot go it alone. They are calling on us to walk with them and stand for truth. In response to that call, U.S. church representatives gathered in October 1988, formed the South Africa Crisis Coordinating Committee (SACCC) and launched a national campaign to "Stand For Truth: Until South Africa is Free." We are calling on our brothers and sisters in the United States to join us in this long-term campaign in spiritual union and solidarity with the church and other democratic forces in South Africa.



What You Can Do To Stand For Truth

1. Sign the "Until South Africa is Free" covenant. Make a long-term pledge to stand for truth against apartheid.
2. Detach and return your covenant card with requests for information on the campaign, the activities its sponsors and additional materials.
3. Adopt campaigns in your community to help put pressure on the South African government to abandon apartheid. Support comprehensive economic sanctions and "people's sanctions," like corporate campaigns and bank boycotts, directed at institutions doing business with South Africa.
4. Stay informed. Regularly renew your commitment to act against apartheid through prayer, reflection and study.

For more information call: NCC Africa Office (212) 870-2645, or W.C.C. U.S. Office (212) 870-2533. Campaign packets available upon request from sponsoring groups.

STAMP

SACCC
475 Riverside Drive, Rm. 612
New York, NY 10115

UNTIL SOUTH AFRICA IS FREE

Preamble

A suffering church has a moral claim on the whole body of Christ. There is now the real possibility of a martyred church in South Africa. That reality places a new responsibility on the rest of the church worldwide. The issue before us now is not simply what the South African churches will do, but also what we are prepared to do. It is the faith of the South African churches and their compassion for the people of their suffering land that calls forth a deeper response from us.

The time has come for the faith, prayers, and energy of the worldwide church of Jesus Christ to be clearly focused on bringing to an end the diabolical system known as apartheid.

We hereby make a covenant with the church and people of South Africa—until South Africa is free.

Covenant

*We are a people called in faith
to live in a time of Kairos
summoned by God to obedience and covenant.*

*We are a people called the Church,
the Body of Christ on earth,
called to assure the dignity of all God's children.*

*We are a people called to confession,
repentant of our complicity with the powers
of evil,
prayerfully seeking forgiveness and spiritual
renewal.*

*We are a people called to action,
resisting indignities, injustice, and oppression
wherever they plague the fragile human family.*

*We are a people called to the Cross,
to risk a love that can cost our lives
because others are dying for the sake of this faith.*

*We are a people called to end apartheid,
to stand beside our sisters and brothers whose
struggle for freedom is bloody and long and not
yet over.*

*We are a people called to envision
the image of God in those who are oppressed,
the Divine beneath the battered, broken,
jailed, and murdered masses of South Africa.*

*We are a people called to the promise
of a new dawn of justice, peace, and love,
and to a new South Africa—nonracial,
democratic, and free.*

*We are a people called to live this faith,
proclaiming that as long as our South African
brothers and sisters risk and sacrifice for their faith,*

*We are a people called to commitment,
sustained by the Holy Spirit,
renewed by our Redeemer, to defend God's
creative purposes even as they are now
trampled under foot by the idolatrous system of
apartheid.*

*Let the white rulers of apartheid be
apprised that this
is the path we have chosen
And this is the way we will follow Christ.*

*Let it be known that any attack on the
South African
churches is an attack on the whole church,
and when the church in South Africa is hurt,
we are also hurt.
When they celebrate, we share their joy.*

*Let our own government be made aware
We will no longer offer our consent for
policies and attitudes which allow South
African apartheid to continue.*

*We make this covenant in faith, prayer,
hope, and
solidarity with our sisters and brothers in
South Africa. We call upon others to
join in this covenant to stand for truth.*

Until South Africa is Free.

I have signed the covenant and pledge to

STAND FOR TRUTH:
Until South Africa is Free



Name _____

address _____

Affiliation _____ congressional district _____ telephone _____

send me: Stand For Truth Until South Africa Is Free, A Call to Action Help Stop Apartheid Action Guide
-background materials Covenant
-resource guide