

Divest Now Coalition and Champaign-Urbana Coalition Against Apartheid  
270 Illini Union  
1401 W. Green  
Urbana, IL 61801

May 4, 1986

Dear Friend,

Over the past 18 months, 2000 Black South Africans have died due to the Racist system of apartheid. Their average age was 14. They died struggling for the basic human rights which you and I take for granted. They were denied their rights simply because of the color of their skin.

Though this is happening thousands of miles away, the University of Illinois supports this racist regime through its investments. More than 20 million dollars of the University's money is invested in corporations that do business in South Africa. As a member of this community, you can help end this racism.

Responding to the pleas of Black South Africa, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called for divestment. Since then, over forty universities, including five Big Ten schools, have fully divested. The University of Illinois still refuses to change its policies.

For the past 10 years, the C-U Coalition Against Apartheid and the Divest Now Coalition have worked through all available channels of communication to urge the University Board of Trustees to divest. Our letters, petitions, testimonies, and referenda have been ignored.

On April 10, 1986, after the Board of Trustees refused once again to consider divestment, 60 people were arrested in a peaceful protest. They stood in the tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King and Mahatma Ghandi, of United States Senators Lowell Weicker and Christopher Dodd, and of countless others.

The University responded to this protest with actions which injured students and by pressing criminal charges. The arrested community members and students believe that their first amendment rights have been violated.

To defend themselves against the possibility of arbitrary disciplinary actions by the University, and against criminal charges in the public courts, the arrestees have had to hire legal counsel. We need to raise \$15,000 for legal fees.

To do this we need your help.

Your contribution made payable to the Divest Now Legal Defense Fund will help to protect the rights of people to stand up against racism at home and abroad. Please mail to the above address. Together we can make a difference. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Donald Crummey  
Professor of African History