

This is the Time



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FIRST ISSUE

March 1980

ZANU Victory in Zimbabwe

by Teresa Stern

"The people of Zimbabwe have achieved a great victory," said a ZANU representative. "For the first time the black majority of Zimbabwe has voted in a fair election for self representation and the people have chosen the Marxist party, Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), decisively."

People were dancing in the streets of Salisbury when they heard that ZANU had won a majority vote. ZANU won 57 seats in the Parliament and the right to pick ZANU leader Robert Mugabe as Prime Minister. The Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), formerly in a military alliance with ZANU called the Patriotic Front and led by Joshua Nkomo, won 20 seats. Bishop Abel Muzorewa, puppet Prime Minister since April 1979, managed to retain only three

seats for his party, the United African National Council (UANC). Ian Smith's National Front Party captured all 20 of the seats reserved exclusively for whites.

ZANU's victory exceeded even the most optimistic predictions. Due to serious interference by the British in the campaign process, many feared that ZANU's wide popular support would not be accurately reflected at the polls. The election was one of the most closely watched in history, with approximately two hundred international observers present, most of whom reported the elections to be generally fair.

The election took place the last three days in February, following a ceasefire which began in early January. The election victory is the result of fifteen years of war for national liberation by the people of

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SAOC Editorial:

This is the Time to Support Liberation in Southern Africa

As we begin publication of *This is the Time*, the people of Zimbabwe have just won a great victory for liberation in Southern Africa. This is the latest victory in the steadily advancing struggle to rid the continent of apartheid. The reactionary settler regime of Rhodesia has now been dislodged. Angola and Mozambique are liberated. Namibia is challenging South African domination. Even in South Africa itself, the people's struggles are shaking the apartheid regime. Inspired by this recent

victory, the forces are gathering for the complete liberation of Southern Africa.

While the forces opposed to apartheid are gathering strength, those who want to maintain the status quo in Southern Africa are not sitting idle. This includes the South African regime and the Western imperialist powers. Strongest of these powers is the US.

The US is being challenged not only in Southern Africa but also in Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East by movements demanding freedom and liberation. Inside the US, people are fighting for a better society, demanding an end to racism, improved social services, and wages that keep up with inflation.

Recently the federal government has increased its preparations to defend the interests of the US corporations. In his State of the Union address in January, Carter called for increased military spending, a return to draft registration, and the establishment of new military bases overseas. To justify the military build-up, Carter stated that "freedom and peace in the world depend on the state of the American union." Referring to Southern

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This is the Time. . .

This is the time
we were all waiting for.
Our guns are light in our hands
the reasons and aims
of the struggle
clear in our minds.

The blood shed by our heroes
makes us sad but resolute.
It is the price of our freedom.
We keep them close in our hearts
from their example new generations
—revolutionary generations—
are already being born.

Ahead of us we see bitter hardships.
But we see also
our children running free
our country plundered no more.

This is the time to be ready
and firm.
The time to give ourselves
to the Revolution.

Josina Machel

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Africa in particular, he pledged that the US "will continue to work as we have for peace."

This is an ugly lie. The US government is not the guardian of freedom, but in fact has an international record of support for repressive regimes. To name a few: Diem and Thieu in South Vietnam, the Shah in Iran, the Chilean junta. In the US itself, the government continues to allow the growth of the Klan and Nazi groups.

In Southern Africa the US government has tried to defend the system of apartheid from the blows of the liberation movements and the outrage of the international community. US investments maintain the economic lifeline of the regime. US technology has aided South Africa in building its military, now believed to have nuclear capabilities. US diplomacy shields South Africa from the imposition of UN economic sanctions.

Our reply to Carter's statement that "peace and freedom in the world depend on the state of the American union" is a definite No! Peace and freedom depend on the success of the rising struggles for liberation

US investments maintain the economic lifeline of South Africa.

in Southern Africa and throughout the world. The goals of these struggles are an end to racism and an end to the domination of the Third World by US interests. Only with the defeat of racism and US domination will genuine peace and freedom be possible.

In Southern Africa it is the liberation movements, not the US, that is fighting apartheid. Their victory will be a defeat for the last bastion of legalized racism. It will serve as a warning to forces who promote racism, like the Klan and Nazis. And a

victory in Southern Africa will be a defeat for US domination of the region.

While the US government and business interests oppose liberation, working people and minority communities in the US have every reason to welcome and support the defeat of apartheid. We are struggling for the

A victory for liberation in Southern Africa will be our victory too.

same goals as the liberation movements. We want a world that is free from racism. We want a society that puts human needs before corporate profits. We also face the same oppressor as the liberation movements. US corporations and their protector, the federal government, back apartheid in South Africa. Inside the US these same powerful interests oppose our struggles for freedom and justice. A victory for liberation in Southern Africa will be our victory as well.

We are therefore committed to supporting the liberation movements in Southern Africa and opposing the increasing militarism of the US government. We will pressure the US government to end its backing of apartheid, and we will build solidarity with the people of Southern Africa.

This is the Time stands clearly on the side of liberation and the struggle to build the solidarity movement in the US. As one contribution to the cause of liberation, in this newsletter we will strive to provide an accurate and timely analysis of the struggle in Southern Africa.

SAOC Steering Committee
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 Teresa Stern

ZANU's Goal in Zimbabwe— A Non-racial Society

In the US, and in most countries of the world today, people live according to written or unwritten rules about race. Race affects the kind of jobs we get, how rich or poor we are, what neighborhood we live in, what kind of education is available to us, what horizons we see for ourselves. Race is important in determining who our friends are, where we are free to move around safely, and how we are treated by state authorities. In fact, society is divided along racial lines with people of color getting the worst jobs, schools, and health care. Along with this division goes the myth that white people are superior and Third World people inferior. Is



this a natural way of life? Has the world always been so race-conscious? Can this change?

The world has not always been racially divided, and it need not always be this way. There are countries that are struggling today to build non-racial societies. The newly independent countries of Southern Africa, Mozambique and Angola, have made great advances in this area, and the liberation movement in Zimbabwe has always stated that one of its primary goals is to build a non-racial nation. A non-racial society is quite different from a biracial society, in which people of different races are "separate but equal." In a biracial society, people are still defined by their race; in a nonracial society, race is simply not an issue, any more than height.

In Mozambique, for instance, all people are welcome to live and work, free from discrimination, as long as they are genuinely committed to building a new society. People of all races and mixtures—white, black, and Asian—are learning to work together, socialize together, live side by side, and accept one another as fellow Mozambicans.

The creation of a non-racial society is a goal for independent Zimbabwe. We in the US can struggle to break the chains of race that condemn black people and other minorities to an inferior position in society and set people against one another. There is nothing natural about having our lives defined by race. □

A History of Struggle: Zimbabwe Must Be Free!

by Teresa Stern

How the Struggle in Zimbabwe Began

Nearly one hundred years ago, an English colonialist named Cecil Rhodes led the British South Africa Company into Zimbabwe. The English wanted to own this land because they saw big profits in the fertile land and rich mineral resources. Armed with English weapons, they took over the country, named it Rhodesia, and forced the people into labor. They set up a government of white settlers and allowed no representation of the black people who outnumbered the whites more than twenty to one.

During the 1960s, Britain was forced by pressure from African people to grant independence to its colonies. The whites in Rhodesia, however, refused to give up their power over the black majority. In 1965 under the leadership of Ian Smith, Rhodesia broke away from Great Britain and set up a system of legalized racism. Ever since, Rhodesia has been an outlaw state, condemned by every nation in the world except South Africa. The United Nations passed economic sanctions against Rhodesia, making it illegal for any country to trade with or provide aid to the outlaw government.

During the 14 years under Smith's government, life for Zimbabweans grew more and more unbearable. Every aspect of life was affected by racial oppression. The standard of living for black people was so low that three out of ten children died in infancy.



Zimbabwean freedom fighters were key.

Decent housing and education, medical care, fair wages, trade unions, the court system, the military, ownership of the land, mines, and manufacturing facilities were all reserved for white people.

Liberation Struggle Led by Patriotic Front

The Zimbabwean people have fought for their country and their lives ever since the British first invaded. For many years, people

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Zimbabwe.

ZANU and ZAPU, who fought the struggle together as the Patriotic Front, have achieved this victory because they were supported by the people of Zimbabwe. The Patriotic Front relied on the masses, who provided shelter and support throughout the long armed struggle. The liberation parties did not try to gain control of the government simply by allying with the British because that would have led to domination by the Western powers rather than genuine majority rule.

ZANU's Task—Consolidate Power

This election victory is a great step forward both for the people of Zimbabwe and for the neighboring states of Southern Africa. The liberation forces are now dominant in Zimbabwe. ZANU is leading

the new government and is developing a working alliance with ZAPU. But their power must still be consolidated. A key part of consolidating Mugabe's control of the government is the restructuring of the military. This will ensure that the old Rhodesian military, loyal to the racist regime, does not remain as a separate force which would endanger the future of the ZANU government. While consolidating this power and setting up a new government, ZANU faces a new challenge: reconstructing a Zimbabwe that will truly develop, rather than exploit, the people and national resources.

Under the leadership of Mugabe and ZANU, Zimbabwe can begin to rebuild the nation. This is an enormous and complex task. The economy is in ruins; there are thousands of people dislocated by the war, many still in exile; thousands of soldiers



Policed by the British, Zimbabweans went to the polls.

must be demobilized, and many political prisoners are yet to be released.

The legacy of a racist society must be overturned. The national structures will have to be reshaped according to the principles of nonracial democracy. A particularly pressing problem is land reform. Under the settlers, black Zimbabweans were only allowed to farm in certain reserved areas while whites owned the best land. In addition, the schools, military, and legal systems will have to be fundamentally changed.

ZANU and ZAPU have always stated that in a free Zimbabwe those whites who remain to take part in rebuilding the nation would be treated on equal terms with blacks and would not have to fear for their safety. In fact, whites are being encouraged to stay in the country. "I urge you, whether you are black or white, to join me in a new pledge to forget the grim past," Mugabe said in a nationwide television address hours after ZANU's victory.

To implement this idea Mugabe has placed white settler Peter Walls, former commander of the Rhodesian armed forces, in charge of integrating the armed forces that have been fighting one another for over a decade. Rhodesian whites respect and admire Walls and consider his role in the new government essential to their well-being. Mugabe has also asked the British to remain in Zimbabwe for another month while the new government is established.

The incoming government has several immediate dangers to face. One is the possibility of sabotage attempts by vengeful white settlers. A settler backlash has created some problems for post-independence Mozambique and a similar reaction could arise in Zimbabwe. By placing Walls in



Mugabe's victory salute.

charge of the military, Mugabe may have defused some of the vengeance, but most likely a threat remains.

South Africa Threatens New Government

The greater immediate danger to Zimbabwe, however, is South Africa. A free, majority-ruled Zimbabwe is now a central link in a chain of independent, non-aligned states across Southern Africa. This has great importance for South Africa, the last bastion of legalized racism. The liberation movements of South Africa will now have much greater potential and support for organizing and waging a liberation struggle. The white minority regime in South Africa is likely to become much more aggressive and step up its police-state repression. It is also likely to escalate attacks on its free neighbors to the north, the Frontline States.

Before the election, the South African government threatened to invade Zimbabwe if ZANU won at the polls. It might be

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Racism on the Rise: Oppose the Klan

by National Anti-Racist Organizing Committee

Over 7,500 people marched in Greensboro, North Carolina to demonstrate against the rising terror of the Ku Klux Klan on February 2, 1980. People came from all parts of the South and as far away as Boston and New York to participate in the demonstration called for by the February 2nd Mobilization Committee, including the National Anti-Racist Organizing Committee (NAROC).

The February 2nd demonstration also commemorated the first lunch counter sit-ins of 20 years ago. They sparked the sit-in movement that challenged Jim Crow segregation in the South. These actions fueled the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, the greatest challenge to racism that this country has ever seen. During the Civil Rights Movement, thousands joined the



David Duke, leader of New Klan.

people's movement for freedom and justice, and the Klan was temporarily suppressed.

But the gains of the 1960s were steadily reversed in the 1970s. The Bakke decision, the Weber case, and anti-busing activities are only part of the trend, and racism is on the rise nationally.

The New Klan Is on the Rise

The Klan, the terrorist arm of racism, is also on the rise. It is vying to be a powerful political force in this country. Membership in various Klan groupings is increasing about 25 percent per year.

The New Klan is struggling for a more respectable image through media work and electoral campaigns. And it has launched vigorous recruitment campaigns in the nation's high schools and military. Most of its members are under thirty.

Klan activity is not just in the South, but is gaining foothold in all parts of the United States. The Klan operates in at least 22 states plus the armed forces.

The New Klan has re-emerged as a bold, racist, and reactionary force. Despite its new tactics, the base line of the Klan is still systematic violence and fascist terror. The recent murders of five anti-Klan activists in Greensboro in broad daylight before television cameras is only one example of the Klan's boldness.

Myth of Reverse Discrimination

The New Klan movement sees itself as "champions of equality and defenders of white rights, and against reverse discrimination." This rhetoric promotes the myth that minorities are now oppressing



North Carolina students lead Feb. 2 Greensboro march.

white people. This is a crude attempt to misdirect people's real frustration caused by unemployment, inflation, and political hypocrisy. Far from being the cause of white misery, minorities are the greatest victims of the chaotic economy. Minorities have twice the rate of unemployment as whites, and those who are employed make only 60 percent of what whites earn. Minority people are relegated to the worst schools, housing, and health care. The concepts of reverse discrimination and white rights are cruel racist jokes. These ideas are designed to pit one part of the working class against the other. Racial minorities are attacked while only the giant multinational corporations benefit from Klan activity. Also the Klan's advocacy of white American supremacy is used to justify exploitation of the rest of the world.

The government is not neutral when it comes to the Klan. Local governments are often secret partners with the Klan through their police and criminal justice systems.

It is outrageous that the government insists on the legality of white supremacists and fascists like the Klan and the Nazis.

They are consistently granted equal rights to march, rally, and organize. At the same time, the government knows full well that the Klan's sole purpose is to deny equal rights by racist genocide. The Klan extends its hatred to minorities, Jews, trade unionists, immigrants, Catholics, communists, and women. This governmental double standard makes a cruel joke out of democracy, showing the hollowness of the government's equal rights policy.

Similarity with Southern Africa

It is the same hollow policy our government applies to situations worldwide, especially in Southern Africa. On the one hand, Carter supports the importance of human rights, while on the other hand he refuses to support self-determination for the African peoples. Paying lip service to human rights is not enough. By its actions, the US government shows that it supports the apartheid governments' exploitation of the African peoples. The government is concerned for the multinational corporations' profits, not human rights.

The struggle for national liberation in

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RACISM ON THE RISE

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Southern Africa and the struggle against racism in the US are two forms of the same struggle. Both face the same hollow policies of the US government. Both struggles benefit working people. A victory in one arena will be a victory for all.

The 1980s promise to see a rise in attacks against the righteous struggles of the people here and in Africa. To beat back the Klan and other racist attacks, a united anti-racist front is needed. The February 2nd National Demonstration Against Klan/Nazi Terror was an excellent beginning. But we have a

long way to go to rekindle the people's movement for justice and freedom. □

WHO WE ARE: The National Anti-Racist Organizing Committee (NAROC) was formed in 1979 by activists from the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision and other groups who were involved in the struggle to defeat the Bakke and Weber cases. We are committed to struggle for the total elimination of racism and all forms of capitalist oppression in order to establish a society based on justice and equality. Presently we have chapters in Seattle, the S.F.-Bay Area, New York, Los Angeles, and affiliates in Boston and Washington, D.C.

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ELECTION VICTORY

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difficult to follow through on this as it would generate international condemnation. But South Africa continues to show its displeasure at the ZANU victory and has

already lined up troops on the Zimbabwe border, in addition to the several thousand who fought with the Rhodesian army already inside the country. South Africa has recently voiced threats of attack on Mozambique, Angola, and Zambia, and South African troops are gathering at those borders. Several Zambian villages were bombed by South African jets in late February.



Victory dance in Salisbury.

Defend the Victory

There is much work to be done by those of us in the US who support peace and freedom in Southern Africa. Zimbabwe needs aid for reconstruction. More important, we must be vigilant in defending its victory. We must also look to Namibia and South Africa, where the next long struggles will unfold. The people of Namibia and South Africa need our solid support, and we can provide it by demanding an end to U.S. government backing of the racist South African regime.

This is the time for celebration; it is also the time to ready ourselves for a long struggle ahead. □

HISTORY OF THE STRUGGLE

(Continued from page 5)

tried to win their independence through peaceful means. Finally in the mid-1960s, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) launched an armed struggle against the Smith regime. Both ZAPU and ZANU have always stood for majority rule and a non-racial society, and they are supported by the overwhelming majority of Zimbabwean people. In 1976 ZANU leader Robert Mugabe and ZAPU leader Joshua Nkomo formed an alliance called the Patriotic Front.

The success of the Patriotic Front forced the Rhodesian government to make some changes. In April 1979, Ian Smith called for elections and claimed that blacks finally had the right to vote. However, the Patriotic Front was barred from participating in the election and people were forced at gunpoint to the polls. This is how Bishop Abel Muzorewa—a black man—was “elected” Prime Minister of Rhodesia.

It was clear to the people of Zimbabwe that Muzorewa was only a puppet of Smith. During his eight months in office, he did not make any real changes in the basic system of life in Rhodesia.

After Muzorewa was made Prime Minister, the armed struggle continued. The strength of the Patriotic Front and its supporters prevented Muzorewa's regime from becoming established as a stable government. However, the Muzorewa-Smith regime was supported—sometimes openly and often secretly—by South Africa, Britain, and the US, and so the Patriotic Front was not able to win a total victory. Also, Zimbabwe's neighbors had suffered greatly

from the long war. These five countries, known as the Frontline States, are Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Zambia, and Botswana. The Frontline States



The Frontline States

strongly urged the Patriotic Front to negotiate so that the war could be brought to an end. A military stalemate combined with pressure from the Frontline States led the Patriotic Front, Britain, Muzorewa, and Smith to the negotiating table.

Agreement Reached at London Talks

On December 21, 1979, after thirteen weeks of talks, an agreement was signed between Britain, Muzorewa, Nkomo, and Mugabe. This agreement settled on a complete ceasefire and an election to be held in February. Zimbabwe would be governed by Britain until the elections were complete. There were several crucial terms in the agreement, including that all South African troops must be evacuated from Zimbabwe, and that the 24,000 “auxiliary forces” and all Rhodesian troops must be given the same treatment as the Patriotic Front troops. The Rhodesian troops were supposed to remain

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HISTORY OF THE STRUGGLE

(Continued from page 11)

in their bases. The Patriotic Front forces were to gather at assembly points inside Zimbabwe, keeping their weapons with them.

Another part of the agreement concerned the Parliamentary body. It was decided that



Ian Smith

twenty seats of a 100-seat Parliament would be voted in by whites only, and the other 80 seats would be voted upon by the black majority.

British Attempt to Sabotage Patriotic Front

After the settlement was signed, the British violated crucial aspects of the agreement. Rather than evacuating the 4,000 South African troops, they allowed 2,000 more to enter and remain in Zimbabwe. Soames used the Rhodesian military and Muzorewa's auxiliary troops to police the country. The British extended the State of Emergency for six months, leaving the estimated 15,000 political prisoners in detention.

The British also tried to limit all Patriotic

Front campaign activity. The campaigns had to be conducted under martial law. The British imposed limits on the transportation available to bring people to rallies. Salisbury printers refused to print Patriotic Front brochures, and election literature was held up at the border.

The Organization of African Unity (except for Malawi and Zaire) condemned these British abuses of the agreement, and the UN Security Council issued a similar condemnation after calling an emergency session to address the violations.

US in Zimbabwe: History of Opposition to Liberation

The US has many financial interests in Zimbabwe, particularly in the country's rich mineral resources. But more important to the US is Zimbabwe's strategic location in the Southern African region. In order to maintain a safe zone for US corporate interests as well as military access, the US government aims to maintain moderate, stable, pro-Western governments in this region.

Before Ian Smith was removed from his position as Prime Minister in April 1979, the US government actually supported the racist regime, although publicly it declared otherwise. Rhodesia was supplied by US companies with oil, military equipment, and many consumer items. American mercenaries were recruited in the US to fight against the Zimbabwean people. All these transactions were illegal, and all were well-known to the US government, yet none of it was stopped. The US government has always been more concerned about profit-making and strategic military considerations in Southern Africa than about the conditions of life for the people there or the sentiments of American citizens who object to illegal US

support for racism.

The US was a strong supporter of the British attempt to undermine the Patriotic Front. Like the British, the main concern of the US has been to ensure that the atmosphere in Zimbabwe after the elections is a good one for profit-making. This matches their covert support for settler rule and opposition to liberation.

A number of American companies have already begun making plans to set up shop in Zimbabwe now that the elections are over. The Walt Disney Corporation was one of the first to make inquiries. Several major US companies have expressed interest in importing Zimbabwean chromium, used in stainless steel products, as well as nickel, asbestos, and tobacco. Union Carbide, the second largest American chemical concern, plans soon to resume its manufacturing and sales operations in Zimbabwe. They have the largest direct US investment in Zimbabwe—net assets of \$25.8 million.

The US will use whatever leverage it still has to protect these investments. On the one hand, this will mean applying economic pressure on the new government. And it will mean continuing US support for its stable and reliable ally in the region, South Africa.

Victory for Liberation

The forces opposed to liberation—the settlers, the British, South Africa, and the US—had hoped to use the elections to their advantage. These reactionary forces were facing an eventual military defeat through the long guerilla war. Their only hope was to manipulate the elections to put the liberation forces in a weak position, but their plan has failed. The liberation movement won a sweeping electoral victory with ZANU taking 57 of the 80 contested seats

and ZAPU winning 20. The thoroughly discredited Muzorewa was left with only 3 seats.

ZANU and ZAPU were able to win the election because they had historically developed broad popular support and carried out a long armed struggle against the regime. The presence of the seasoned



Muzorewa, Mugabe, and Nkomo after London talks

guerilla forces prevented Britain and the settlers from rigging and manipulating the elections. The political program and history of ZANU and ZAPU clearly represented the desires of the people of Zimbabwe. The result was a victory for ZANU, the leading liberation force, and for its ally in the liberation struggle, ZAPU.

This victory is a watershed in the history of Zimbabwe. The new government must still meet many challenges in defending and consolidating this victory, but the liberation forces now have the upper hand. The people of Zimbabwe have struck a decisive blow against the forces of racism and foreign domination. □

Join ZANU and the People of Zimbabwe in a Celebration of the Election Victory

“Once again, the people have spoken.”

Speaker: Tirivafi Kangai, ZANU's Chief Representative to the UN and the Americas, recently returned from Zimbabwe and a Cultural Presentation.
Sponsored by ZANU.

Saturday, March 22, 8:00 PM.

SEIU Hall, 240 Golden Gate S.F.
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Donation \$3.50

Tickets available at Modern Times, Marcus Book Stores, Old Wives Tales, La Pena.

For Information call 621-0938 or 863-3717
Sorry, no childcare. Wheelchair accessible.

SAOC Recycling Project

To join simply save newspapers, aluminum cans, computer paper, and boxed computer tab cards. Bring them to the following SAOC collection points:

S.F.—3126 23rd Street (at Folsom)

Place on left side of house

Oakland—872 43rd Street (at West St.)

Follow signs to basement of house

Raffle for Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Action Campaign is sponsoring a raffle. The proceeds will go to Zimbabwe's new government for the reconstruction of the country and the relocation of refugees. Tickets cost \$1.00 and the first prize is a round-trip ticket to anywhere in the continental U.S. or Hawaii. Contact your local ZAC representative at (415) 227-3333 x115 or write to *This is the Time*.



SLIDE SHOW

If you, your friends and your community, school, church, or labor group would like to learn more about the rich history of the Zimbabwean people's struggle for liberation, you can arrange for a showing of the ZAC slide show. The slide show is 20 minutes long and looks at

- Pre-colonial Zimbabwe
- The British invasion
- Early resistance to white settler rule
- Unilateral Declaration of Independence
- Foreign domination in Zimbabwe
- The role of the US government
- The rise of the Patriotic Front and the armed struggle

To find out about arranging a slide show showing call (415) 227-3333 x 115.

WHO WE ARE

The Southern Africa Organizing Committee is an organization in the Bay Area committed to the fight against US government and corporate support for the racist regimes of Southern Africa. This is the first edition of our newsletter, which will be published every two months. Standard news reports usually do not provide enough information about Southern Africa and what they do provide is often inaccurate. Through this publication we hope to keep our readers better informed about current events in Southern Africa and Bay Area support activities for the liberation movements. Our newsletter will also be aimed at explaining the connections between our struggles against racism and oppression in the U.S. and the struggles of the Southern African people. We welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions.

We need a few dedicated people to pledge at least \$5, \$10, or more each month to keep us publishing.

Sustainers will receive a free subscription and a special annual report on the progress of Southern Africa solidarity work.

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Urgent Call from African National Congress

James Mange, a South African liberation fighter, has been sentenced to death by the apartheid regime. According to the Geneva Conventions, any guerillas captured during a national liberation struggle are to be treated as prisoners of war. Instead, the apartheid regime has found Mange guilty of treason and imposed the death sentence.

Victor Matlou, a South African poet and ANC member living in Tanzania, has been kidnapped by the South African police. During a trip from Mozambique to Lesotho his plane was forced to land temporarily in South Africa. The South African police

abducted him from the plane. He is still being held illegally in South Africa.

SAOC joins with the ANC in urging supporters of the anti-apartheid movement to:

- Demand the unconditional release of Victor Matlou
- Demand that the execution of James Mange be stopped.

Letters should be sent to P.W. Botha, Government Building, Pretoria, South Africa.

**Release All South African
Political Prisoners!**

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