

# Chicago Committee for Fair Elections in South Africa

## April 27, 1994

Coordinator: Prof. Harold Rogers  
1640 E. 50th St. Apt 11A, Chicago, IL 60615  
PHONE 312-291-6225 FAX 312-684-6967

Observer Information: Community Renewal Society  
332 S. Michigan Avenue Suite 500 Chicago, IL 60604  
PHONE 312-427-4830 Extension 1220 FAX 312-427-6130

---

January 10, 1994

Dear Friend:

The elections for a new South Africa will take place on April 27, 1994 where for the first time the majority of South Africans will have political control of their country. There are around 21 million people eligible to vote with about 18 million of this number being black South Africans. This historic event, which many of us have worked for over the years, is still facing many problems. This is an election year in Chicago where local races will draw our attention, but in South Africa, the black population faces a struggle to gain their freedom from 300 years of Apartheid. There is over 60% illiteracy amongst the black population and some 55% unemployment with a great deal of despair and poverty. The black population has never voted in a national election and they lack the material and financial resources of their opponents.

We have a responsibility to help the oppressed people of South Africa since we have a long history in Chicago of opposing Apartheid. The right to a free and fair election in South Africa is directly linked to our freedom in Chicago. When ANC President Nelson Mandela came to Chicago in early July of last year, Chicagoans turned out in mass and over \$600,000 was raised. Now Mandela needs additional material and financial support. He needs us to be in South Africa to observe the elections. You can help.

The Chicago Committee for Fair Elections in South Africa was formed several months ago by different anti-apartheid organizations and individual supporters concerned with the election process in South Africa. Three committees have been developed including: fundraising, material aid and election participation. If you would like to help please contact me at the above address or phone number.

If you are able to become an election observer for 2-3 weeks in April, please contact the Community Renewal Society at the number listed above. People who would like to go must meet certain criteria and cover their own expenses. We encourage Chicago churches, unions and civic organizations to sponsor an observer for the elections. Financial contributions can also be made to assist an observer's travel to South Africa.

Now is the time to make history. We cannot wait. Participate in this historic event. We need your support. Let us hear from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Prof. Harold Rogers  
Coordinator

*labor donated*

---

*Committee in Formation:* Illinois Labor Network Against Apartheid • Black Faculty and Staff in Higher Education • Democracy for South Africa • Coalition of Black Trade Unionists • Community Renewal Society • Operation PUSH • Chicago Committee in Solidarity with Southern Africa (CCISSA) • Chicago-Alexandra Sister Community Project • Chicago Conference of Black Lawyers • The National Lawyers' Guild-Chicago Chapter