

# **Food First**

*Institute for Food and Development Policy  
1885 Mission Street San Francisco, CA 94103-3584 USA (415) 864-8555*

February 21, 1986

Dear Friend;

As you probably know, police and military forces have killed some 1,500 black South Africans over the past year and a half. But you may not be aware that during the same period, more than 50,000 black children have died of starvation due to the imposed poverty of apartheid.

South Africa has great agricultural wealth. It is one of the top food exporters in the world. Yet the 14 million Africans forced to live in the barren bantustans suffer severe malnutrition. Infant mortality rates in the bantustans are higher than in any nation on earth. Most of these infant deaths, and the stunted growth of the children who survive, are caused by needless malnutrition.

Food First has launched a new campaign to awaken people to this starvation in a land of plenty, and to build bridges between the anti-apartheid movement and the anti-hunger movement. Enclosed you will find:

- o An editorial on South Africa based on a recent fact-finding trip;
- o A 4-page Action Alert, South Africa: Hunger in a Land of Plenty (30,000 copies already distributed);
- o A sample of how one California newspaper edited the Action Alert into a brief article;
- o A camera-ready ad on hunger in South Africa. We are asking for help in placing this ad. If you need more copies, please let us know.

We hope you can make creative use of these materials. We ask only that you mention Food First and our address on reprinted material and that you mail us a sample copy.

Thanks very much for your help in this important cause.

With best regards,



Kevin Danaher  
Issues Analyst

"Starvation in a Land of Plenty"  
by Kevin Danaher

South Africa boasts of being among the top seven agricultural exporters in the world. Each year, the country exports more than a billion dollars worth of grains, meat, vegetables, fruit and fish. Yet every year, some 50,000 black children die from malnutrition.

The infant mortality rate among rural blacks--242 per 1,000--is worse than the national average of any country in the world. And sixty percent of that infant mortality is due to malnutrition.

This mass starvation, not to mention the excruciating hunger and physical impairment suffered by those who survive, is absolutely unnecessary. South Africa has a good climate and ample farmland. The starvation killing so many black South Africans is caused by a human-made tragedy: apartheid.

With the full participation of U.S. corporations, South Africa's white minority has constructed an economy that has no use for half the black population: some 14 million people. The major sectors of the economy--manufacturing, mining, agriculture--are capital-intensive: they expand through technological innovation, not through increased employment. Thus millions of blacks not needed in the white economy become "surplus" people, to be dumped in rural reserves.

Using a complex structure of ethnic "homelands" (bantustans), internal passports, and forced removal of unwanted urban dwellers, the government ejects these surplus people from the 87 percent of the country reserved for whites, and dumps them in barren rural areas. Since 1960, the government has forcibly moved nearly four million Africans: the largest forced migration ever in peacetime.

These blacks automatically lose their South African citizenship on the day their homeland is declared independent by the South African government. The closest historical parallel is the 1941 Nazi law that denationalized German Jews and permitted the "legal" atrocities that were to follow.

On a recent trip to South Africa, I visited some of these human dumping grounds. The level of misery--particularly in a country with such abundant wealth--is appalling.

One settlement I visited is typical of the towns you find in the so-called homelands. It is nothing more than a rural slum, far removed from the urban areas where most employment is located. Tiny shacks built of refuse material are crammed together in tight little rows. The dusty settlement is home to more than 50,000 people, mainly women, children and old men. The younger men are off in the cities, trying to find work.

The town has no jobs, no farmland, no medical services, no electricity, no sewage system, and no theaters or other recreational facilities.

The land is of poor quality. The plots allocated to each family are too small for even a decent vegetable garden. The government provides no credit, irrigation, or marketing assistance. The people are too poor to afford seeds, fertilizer or tools.

And the government is dumping new people all the time. On the outskirts of this vast settlement the government is erecting row after row of corrugated tin outhouses--the only construction assistance from the government--in preparation for the next batch of deportees from white South Africa.

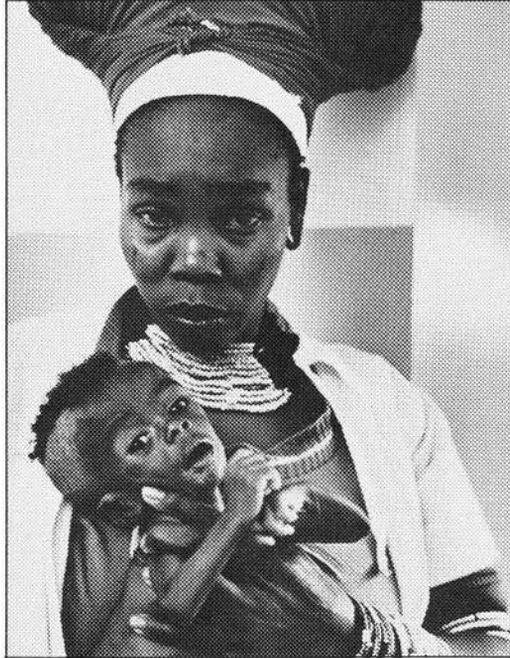
The people forced to live here do not stand a chance. The children show signs of severe malnutrition. A recent study of the Ciskei bantustan showed that 89 percent of the children were malnourished. Those who manage to survive will be confined to a life of illiteracy, unemployment and hunger.

Many Americans do not fully grasp the extent to which apartheid is inherently violent. In the past year and a half, government security forces have killed some 1,500 Africans. But in that same period, the policy of enforced starvation has taken fifty times as many lives, mostly young children.

While a growing number of South Africans are pushing for an end to apartheid, the Reagan administration and major U.S. corporations continue to provide support for the white minority regime. If we really care about ending hunger and injustice, we should help the South African majority by cutting all U.S. links to apartheid.

Dr. Kevin Danaher works at the Institute for Food and Development Policy in San Francisco, and is the author of In Whose Interest? A Guide to U.S.-South Africa Relations. He recently returned from a fact-finding trip to South Africa.

# Apartheid



Eve Arnold/Magnum

## means starvation in a land of plenty.

South Africa is among the top seven food exporters in the world. Every year it exports more than a billion dollars worth of beef, grain, vegetables and fruit.

Yet every day 136 black children die from hunger.

The problem is not a lack of food but a lack of justice. It is *apartheid*—South Africa's system of racial domination—that keeps the black majority hungry.

- Blacks are 70% of the population but can own land in just 13% of the country.

- Blacks can own no more than 4 acres of land, while white farms average 3,000 acres.

- Black workers earn as little as \$30 per month, and unemployment is over 25 percent.

- A black infant in a rural area is 20 times more likely to die than a white infant.

- Blacks are forced to carry internal passports, and every three minutes a black person is arrested for violation of "pass" laws.

- Blacks are denied basic rights such as voting and deciding where to live.

**There can be no end to hunger in South Africa without an end to apartheid.**

Enclosed is a contribution for \$ \_\_\_\_ to help spread the message about hunger in South Africa

Send me more information on how I can help stop apartheid

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

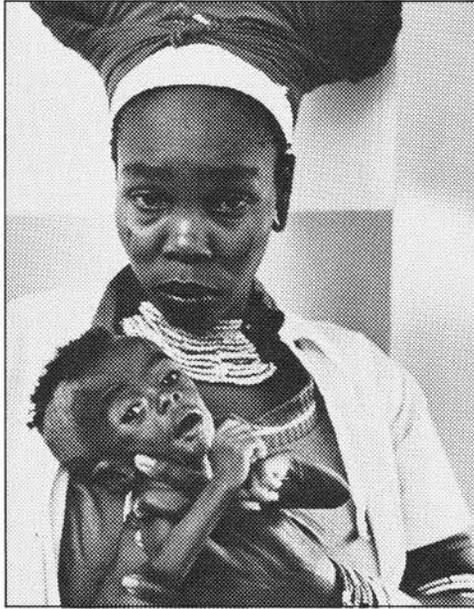
CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Institute for Food & Development Policy  
1885 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103-3584

## I Want to Help Stop Apartheid!





Eve Arnold/Magnum

# Apartheid means starvation in a land of plenty.

**S**outh Africa is among the top seven food exporters in the world. Every year it exports more than a billion dollars worth of beef, grain, vegetables and fruit.

Yet every day 136 black children die from hunger.

The problem is not a lack of food but a lack of justice. It is *apartheid*—South Africa's system of racial domination—that keeps the black majority hungry.

- Blacks are 70% of the population but can own land in just 13% of the country.
- Blacks can own no more than 4 acres of land, while white farms average 3,000 acres.
- Black workers earn as little as \$30 per month, and unemployment is over 25 percent.
- Blacks are denied basic rights such as voting and deciding where to live.

**There can be no end to hunger in South Africa without an end to apartheid.**

Enclosed is a contribution for \$ \_\_\_\_ to help spread the message about hunger in South Africa

Send me more information on how I can help stop apartheid

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Institute for Food & Development Policy  
1885 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103-3584

## I Want to Help Stop Apartheid!

© Institute for Food and Development Policy