

"Freedom is indivisible and when one man is enslaved, who are free?"

-- John F. Kennedy

FREE SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

demonstrate

THURSDAY

[REDACTED]
JUNE 4

protest

bannings, jailings, torturing and trials

of thousands of opponents of apartheid

march

in solidarity with Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and 7 others
now on trial facing a possible death penalty

-
- PICKET : South African Consulate, 4:30 p.m. 655 Madison Avenue (at 60th Street)
WALK : From the Consulate to the United Nations, 5:30 p.m.
RALLY : At the UN, 6:00 p.m. 47th Street and First Avenue

h e a r

LEON DAVIS, President, Local 1199-RWDSU
OSSIE DAVIS and RUBY DEE, stars of Purlie Victorious
JAMES FARMER, National Director, CORE
MORLEY NKOSI, Representative of the Pan-Africanist Congress of S. Africa
and others

SPONSORED BY

American Committee on Africa
American Society of African Culture
Association of Artists for Freedom
Campus Americans for Democratic Action
CORE
Local 1199, RWDSU

NAACP
Student Action Committee, Union Seminar
Students for a Democratic Society
SNCC
United Auto Workers
US National Student Association

For more information and to volunteer your help call: American Committee on Africa
TN 7-9733

SAVE THESE LIVES



THE NEW YORK TIMES

Trial in South Africa

Apartheid Opponents Face Death Penalty, Group Warns

TO THE EDITOR:

In the midst of the widening struggle for racial justice here in the United States we are moved to voice publicly our deep concern for the fate of nine men, Africans, whites and an Indian, on trial for their lives in South Africa. They are accused of responsibility for 192 acts of sabotage. The Government is demanding the death penalty provided under the 1962 General Law Amendment Act which defines sabotage so broadly that it even includes the writing of anti-Government slogans in public places.

The New York Times of April 21 reported on the opening of the defense's argument with statements by Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, two of South Africa's most outstanding leaders, who were long in the forefront of the nonviolent struggle against white supremacy in their country. If the death sentence is handed down, there are bound to be repercussions far beyond the African continent, and, in your own words, Mr. Mandela "would become one of the first major African martyrs."

Continuing Sabotage

We would like to make a few general comments about the trial:

Whatever may be said about the truth or falsity of some of the specific charges in this case, there is no doubt about the fact that sabotage and violence have been and will continue to be carried on in South Africa so long as the Government persists in its present course. The facts about oppression are well known.

Opposition organizations are banned; no vote is given to the nonwhites; repressive legislation grows ever more severe. What outlet is there for nonwhite opposition except what amounts to revolutionary action? A protest against severe penalties is therefore a protest in reality against a whole system which provides no outlet for the victims of oppression save desperate measures.

Much of the evidence against the accused was extracted from witnesses who were not only held under the 90-day clause of the General Law Amendment Act of 1963 ("notrial" act) but who were physically maltreated. Affidavits presented to the United Nations have pretty conclusively established that at least some of the witnesses were subjected to physical beatings, the use of electric current, prolonged solitary confinement and other methods of

refined torture. This is certainly cause for protest.

U.N. Scrutiny

The U.N. has passed several resolutions in both the Assembly and the Security Council asking for an end to the imprisonment and trials of opponents of apartheid. The United States, we are proud to note, voted for these resolutions. The Security Council is to meet again shortly to consider the South African situation in the light of the trial and in the light of the report of the group of experts it established, which has been submitted six weeks ahead of schedule because of the gravity of the present situation.

We feel that the trial of these nine opponents of apartheid is one of concern for all people who cherish freedom, justice and equality, as well as for the people of South Africa. We hope our Government will call upon South Africa not only to change its tragic racial policies, but also to point out the seriousness with which a death penalty would be viewed for persons whose only real offense is their desire for freedom.

DONALD S. HARRINGTON, A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, WALTER REUTHER, FRANCIS B. SAYRE, ROY WILKINS.

New York, April 30, 1964.