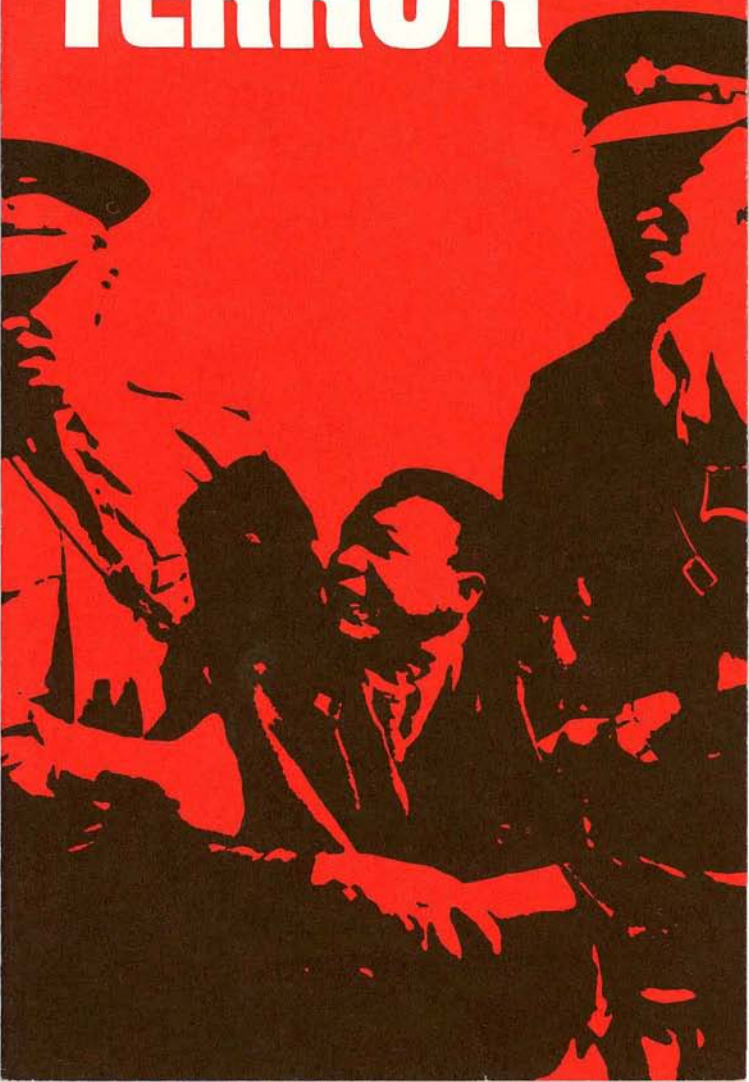


AID VICTIMS OF
**SOUTHERN
AFRICA'S**
**RULE OF
TERROR**



political oppression and its victims

The exact number of prisoners persecuted and jailed in Southern Africa for their political and ideological convictions is unknown. In South Africa, South West Africa, Rhodesia and the Portuguese-controlled regions of Angola and Mozambique all opposition is efficiently and often brutally persecuted. The Police State penetrates the fabric of life in all of these countries, but the best documented evidence on the nature of this system can be derived from actual cases found in South Africa, the keystone of the entire southern African region.

In South Africa there are reliably estimated to be about 8,000 political prisoners. The South African police state tries to conceal the extent and nature of its persecution of political opponents, seeking to create an atmosphere of terror and helplessness within the country, and it often succeeds in hiding the existing widespread opposition to its vicious racism from the outside world.



the police state acts where it can in secret....

■ detaining men and women under the "180 day" clause, in solitary confinement for endless months, without charge or trial, without the right to a lawyer, without even public announcement of the detention.

■ banning and placing under "House Arrest" political opponents against whom it has not even the flimsy evidence needed to prosecute in Court. There are now over 600 people thus punished without trial, who risk a jail sentence for any slight infringement of their restriction orders, for talking to a friend similarly banned, going to a movie or a wedding, or forgetting, just once, to make the reporting trip to the police station.

■ torturing prisoners to extract confessions or evidence against others, with complete immunity for the torturers.

■ trying people "in camera"—for only a few of the almost daily political trials in South Africa are ever reported. They are usually held behind closed doors, in remote corners of the country where access to counsel is difficult and expensive. There men and women are tried in batches, sentenced and jailed for 3, 6, 10 or 15 years—often under a total blanket of silence.



but the veil of silence can be torn

Political prisoners can be reached and defended both in South Africa and Rhodesia. For some years the South African Defense and Aid Fund helped organize the legal defense of men tried for political resistance. Now the Fund has been banned—outlawed—because it did its job too well. A similar organization now exists in Rhodesia, although its lifespan is precarious. But there are still courageous lawyers prepared to fight for the politically accused in the courts. And they need financial help to carry on with their work.

the importance of legal defense

The Courts in South Africa are often biased; many judges support the "Herrenvolk" Government. And it is common for witnesses to perjure themselves, giving false evidence against others, perhaps because they have been broken by torture and beatings, perhaps to save their own skins. But adequate defense can still sometimes secure an acquittal or at least a reduced sentence, as in the case of Dr. Pather, who was sentenced in 1964 for 2½ years for allowing his premises to be used for a meeting of an unlawful organization—the African National Congress. On appeal, by a Defense and Aid lawyer, his sentence was reduced to 18 months, with 9 months suspended. It is certain that, without defense, many of the hundreds acquitted in recent years of political "crimes" would have been convicted, and that even more savage sentences would have been imposed on those found guilty.

A NEW POLITICAL PERSECUTION has now been devised: the re-sentencing of people for substantially the same offense. Again the case of Dr. Pather illustrates: on the day when he was due to be released, he appeared instead in court, again in the dock. Three charges were read, all relating to the original offense, for which he had already been punished—allowing his house to be used for a meeting, contributing money to the African National Congress, and allowing his house to be used in collection of funds. He was *re-sentenced* on these charges to 18 months, 12 months and 6 months, respectively!

There are hundreds, perhaps thousands now in prison who face just such a travesty of "justice", for the Government fears to release them. *These prosecutions can be challenged*, but the cases must be contested at every point, and many will have to go to appeal.

FUNDS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED TO FIGHT THIS NEW ATTACK.

torture: the world must know

Evidence of torture and police brutality must be publicly exposed. This will not end all torture, but it may act as a curb on the Secret Police drunk with its own power . . . and expose the nature of the South African regime to the all too complacent world.

The Case of Violet Weinberg: an elderly woman who was first held in solitary confinement for six months, then sentenced to three months imprisonment for refusing to give evidence against others politically accused. In Court Mrs. Weinberg told of her nightmare: 70 hours of third degree interrogation by a team of six Security police, working on her in relays. She was made to stand for 70 hours, was refused food, and was threatened with the arrest of her young, deaf son. She cracked eventually, and made a statement to the police, but subsequently refused to give evidence in Court, saying that she had been blackmailed and coerced into giving that statement, and if she had consented to give evidence she would have been regarded as a martyr by the whole world. The Judge, when sentencing Mrs. Weinberg, said that he assumed that her evidence of torture and solitary confinement was *true*—but that the *method* used by the Police to extract information from her had *no relevance* to the issue before him!

There have been countless allegations by African and other political prisoners of beatings, electric shock treatments and other brutalities. Currently Z. Methopeng, a leading member of the Pan Africanist Congress now in jail, is suing the Minister of Justice for injuries sustained under interrogation. Such cases are important because they will reveal the true nature of the South African regime.



families suffer

Political repression brings not only injustice and personal agony to prisoners but reverberates throughout the entire southern African society where families—wives, parents, grandparents, children—formerly dependent on the earnings of the family breadwinner—are left stranded without even this meagre income.

There is 21 year old Josie Nonyaniso of South Africa who was left to look after five small brothers and sisters when her parents were jailed—her father for 8 years, her mother for 4½ years. Her husband died last year, and she has a baby of her own. Who will help?

From Rhodesia there is W. H. Mabena, who was first imprisoned in 1962 under a 5 year restriction at Gona-kudzingwa for supposedly contravening the Law and Order Maintenance Act. His family of 5 children, an old mother, and aunt managed to live on his small savings and the earnings of his wife who was a schoolteacher—*until* she was fired. Not only did Mrs. Mabena lose her \$25 a week job, but her husband was reconvicted for another 5 year term. Where does this leave the Mabena family? The father comments, "...I am completely a lost man in my land of birth".

There are hundreds of families of political prisoners facing similar agonies in the towns of southern Africa (it is estimated that there are at least 700 such families in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, alone). There are others even worse off. Often as the prison gates slam behind their men folk the women are "endorsed out" by vindictive authorities, forced to leave the cities, and sent to the remote, poverty-stricken African "reserves," where they know no one, where there is no work, where they and their children starve.



aid is possible

Welfare Committees, for instance, are usually able to pay some rents and give little food, mainly fortified milk and soup powder—and to make cash payments (about \$9 a month) to some families. In Rhodesia and other areas, similar organizations try to help the victims of racism as best they can, but even this aid will cease if money does not come soon.

education . . . a necessity for prisoners and their children

One of the keys to the future of southern Africa is the education of her people, and although under existing conditions of political, social and economic repression, the form of African education is purposefully retarded and made inferior, it is still vitally important to provide at least some learning for political prisoners and their children.

A Rhodesian prisoner has commented, “we find ourselves with more time than we need with the result that everyone of us is studying, not only to while away the time but in order to turn this prison evil into a blessing.” The cost of correspondence courses and books average over \$150 per year, per prisoner. Through direct payment to the University where the courses are given, we have enabled a number of prisoners (where allowed by the authorities) to save their sanity through education.

In addition prisoners with families are constantly asking for help in providing their children’s school fees, uniforms and supplies. An African child, in contrast to a white one, does not receive free education, and an imprisoned father cannot provide for these necessities. Only you can do what the state refuses to do.

refugee relief programs

There are countless refugees not only within the countries of southern Africa but gathered in camps and towns of independent Africa to the north, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia. Educational centers and refugee camps have been established, primarily for refugees from Angola and Mozambique, and there is a constant need for food, clothing, medical supplies and educational aids. This is particularly true with the increased activity of freedom movements within these countries and the resulting displacement of families, the need for new and independent schools within liberated areas, and medical centers. **The concern must be for all of southern Africa. The hand of racism has blighted the lives of the oppressed; the victims of this system must not become forgotten people. They need your help—and they need it now!**



Children of a family whose father was sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island. The grandmother is caring for the children while their mother is in jail under the "90-Day Law".



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