

**This is the story of one woman in South Africa today. Read it - then you may understand what life today is like for thousands & thousands of women & children living in that country now**

Caroline Motsoaledi was arrested in the courtroom where the Rivonia trial was taking place. Her husband, Elias, was on trial for sabotage, facing a possible death sentence. Her seven young children were in the temporary care of a neighbour. She was taken away from the spectators' benches, as she watched her husband in the dock, and placed in solitary confinement without warrant or charge.

She could not contact her children. The youngest was a breast-fed baby of six weeks, the eldest a boy of ten. When she failed to come home the neighbour called the children's sick old grandmother from the country to care for these children whose father was being tried in one of South Africa's most important political trials, and whose mother was being held indefinitely in solitary confinement.

The Rivonia trial dragged on. Free, Caroline Motsoaledi could have visited her husband for a half-hour twice each week. Instead she saw no-one and knew nothing of what was happening in the Rivonia trial. She was taken for questioning from time to time, but told nothing.

Months later Caroline Motsoaledi was released. The Rivonia trial had ended, and her husband, together with Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and the other co-accused had been sentenced to life imprisonment and sent to pass the rest of their days on Robben Island. Caroline has been allowed to visit him once and may do so again in six months time. She herself was not charged and no-one knows why she was detained for so long.

This is but one case. Lettie Sibeko from Cape Town was newly pregnant when first detained in solitary confinement. She was charged after five months and released on bail fourteen days before her child was born. Pixie Benjamin, the mother of three young children, went on a hunger-strike while in detention; after seven weeks, when nearly dead in her cell, the police were forced to charge her. Her husband said: "My wife is innocent and her will to eat or starve is her only weapon against this monstrous injustice."

These instances are only three in thousands. They illustrate what is happening all over the country. They show how wives are detained often only for questioning about their husbands. Even when mothers are not themselves detained, the suffering they and their children undergo as their husbands, fathers and breadwinners are taken away in ever increasing numbers is limitless. We can only say that there are an estimated 10-15 thousand children in South Africa today in need of assistance because one or both parents are in jail for "political crimes."

The problem of political prisoners in South Africa today is a moral one demanding the involvement of every human being, all over the world. To stand aside is to connive at the crimes of apartheid, and to become as guilty through inaction as the German people were guilty of Belsen and Dachau.

The problem of the women and children, directly or indirectly affected by the actions of the apartheid police-state, is a human one, sounding its appeal across the differences of political outlook, across the barriers of nationality, across the frontiers of the world.

## **We demand :**

- **The release of all political prisoners in South Africa.**
- **Reprieve for all those sentenced to death for political crimes.**
- **Implementation of UN resolutions**

## **Send your demands to :**

Dr. Carel de Wet,  
South Africa House,  
Trafalgar Square,  
London, W.C.2.

## **Copies to :**

U Thant,  
United Nations,  
New York.

## **and :**

Anti-Apartheid Movement,  
89 Charlotte Street,  
London, W.1.

**Speakers, literature, membership forms, available from:**  
**Anti-Apartheid Movement**  
**LAN 5311**

# **Join Anti-Apartheid Movement**