

NO APARTHEID EXECUTIONS



SIGN THE PETITION NOW!

This petition campaign was launched on April 6th 1989 — ten years to the day since the execution of Solomon Mahlangu a young combatant of the African National Congress. It is being organised in response to the dramatic increase in the imposition of the death penalty in South Africa today for their activities in resisting apartheid.

SOUTH AFRICA'S RECORD OF JUDICIAL MURDER

South Africa's record speaks for itself. Since South Africa resumed execution of its opponents in 1979 the situation has deteriorated. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of people executed after trials arising out of political protest. In the past three years 16 people have been executed compared with a total of 5 during the preceding seven years.

EMPTY THE CELLS ON DEATH ROW!

When this Petition was launched there were over 60 South Africans known to be on Death Row for their alleged involvement in activities related to opposition to apartheid. The number continues to grow as the South African state increasingly resorts to the death penalty in a desperate attempt to intimidate the resistance movement into submission. Those sentenced are overwhelmingly young people, including trade unionists and women, as well as combatants of the liberation movement.



This is why this Petition is addressed to the House of Commons. We must get the message across to MP's of all parties that Britain must act decisively to stop all apartheid executions.

Those signing the Petition are also encouraged to write letters to the following people calling for an end to all apartheid executions:

The State President Union Buildings Pretoria 0001 South Africa
The Minister of Law and Order Private Bag X463 Pretoria 0001 South Africa
The Prime Minister The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP 10 Downing Street London SW1

All completed petitions and money raised should be returned immediately, or no later than 11th October 1989, the UN Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. All money raised will be used to assist the campaign to end apartheid executions. Further petition forms are available on request.

SATIS (Southern Africa-The Imprisoned Society) initiates and co-ordinates campaigns in Britain and internationally against repression and for the release of all political prisoners and detainees in Namibia and South Africa. The SATIS Committee includes representatives from: Alliance of Radical Methodists · Anti-Apartheid Movement · British Defence and Aid Fund · COSAWR · Haldane Society · International Defence and Aid Fund · Jews Against Apartheid · Lawyers Against Apartheid · Liberation · MSF · National Union of Students · Namibian Support Committee · Pax Christi · Society of Black Lawyers · UNA Youth Council · Young Social and Liberal Democrats of England

Return petitions to: SATIS (South Africa the Imprisoned Society) c/o the Anti-Apartheid Movement, 13 Mandela Street, London NW1 ODW, 01-387 7966

INJUSTICE IN APARTHEID COURTS

The Sharpeville Six campaign demonstrated to the entire world that justice is a concept alien to the legal system in South Africa. The convictions delivered by the courts rely on trial procedure weighted against the accused: in particular on detention of both defendants and witnesses and on statements obtained under duress and torture. The courts which have imposed the convictions of murder resulting in these death sentences are part of the apartheid system which is itself the root cause of the violence in South Africa. Executions carried out by the Pretoria regime can only exacerbate the situation.

PRISONER OF WAR STATUS FOR FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Some of those on Death Row are captured combatants of the African National Congress who have taken up arms to free their country from the tyranny of apartheid. The Geneva Conventions on the humanitarian conduct of war now recognise the legitimacy of such struggles and require the South African authorities to treat captured freedom fighters as prisoners of war. They refuse to do this.

BRITAIN'S RECORD

Britain has intervened in some of the cases of those on Death Row. However it refuses to pursue a general policy of opposing the execution of opponents of apartheid. Indeed in many cases it states that it will only consider intervening over a case when the South African State President has turned down a final Petition for Clemency. Tragically this means that any intervention will almost certainly be too late, since it is usually only disclosed that a Petition has been refused at the same time as the execution date is given, with no more than a week's notice.