

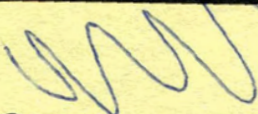
# Free All Apartheid's Detainees



We the undersigned, call for the immediate release of all those detained without trial in South Africa and Namibia.

Name (please print)	Address	Signature	Donation

The National Petition Campaign Committee consists of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, British Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, The British Council of Churches, Christian Concern for Southern Africa, The Committee for International Justice and Peace of Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, The Namibia Support Committee, National Steering Committee for Local Authorities Against Apartheid, The National Union of Students, Southern Africa the Imprisoned Society, The Trades Union Congress, and The United Nations Association.



**SIGN THE PETITION NOW!**

# Free All Apartheid's Detainees

## Introduction

A number of major British organisations have come together to focus attention on the plight of detainees in South Africa and Namibia. They are urging people from all walks of life to sign a simple petition calling for the release of all those detained without trial.

## Why a petition?

■ First and foremost in the hope that it will influence the South African authorities to release those detained without trial. There is considerable evidence to demonstrate that the apartheid regime does respond to effective campaigns.

■ Secondly because the petition provides an opportunity of reminding people that thousands of apartheid's opponents are still being held in detention.

The rigid controls over the media imposed by the South African authorities have led to a dramatic reduction in coverage of events in South Africa. There is little or no coverage of events in Namibia. Remember the South African authorities expelled both the BBC TV and ITN correspondents. Little news is now reaching people about detainees. Everyone approached to sign the petition will be reminded about their plight.

■ Thirdly because the draconian restrictions placed on the people in South Africa make it increasingly difficult to campaign for the release of detainees. This places added responsibility on all of us in Britain and internationally to participate in renewed efforts to secure the release of detainees.

■ Fourthly because we believe that the British government should be aware of the strength of feeling which exists in Britain on this matter. The British Government has protested on many occasions when prominent South Africans and Namibians have been detained without trial. It will strengthen such representations if the British Government is able to demonstrate the extent of popular support for such action.

## When was the Petition launched?

The National Petition was launched on 11th June 1987 — the day of the General Election in Britain — and the day on which the South African authorities renewed the State of Emergency in South Africa. The State of Emergency, the most draconian in South Africa's history, was originally imposed on 12th June 1986. In Namibia which South Africa illegally occupies, what amounts to a State of Emergency has been in force since the early 1970s.

The date was chosen to remind people that many opponents of apartheid had been detained without trial — sometimes in solitary confinement — for an entire year. The total number detained since the imposition of the State of Emergency is estimated to be over 30,000.

## When will the National Petition Campaign finish?

On 10th December — UN Human Rights Day. The results of the National Petition Campaign will be presented to the South African authorities, the British Prime Minister and the UN Secretary General.

## Is there a target for signatures?

Yes — we want at least a million. This will require a tremendous amount of campaigning work.

## Who are the detainees?

People who are detained come from all sections of the community. Many are active in the struggle against apartheid but have committed no criminal offence. Others have just been detained arbitrarily. Many are young people — some children as young as eight years old have been detained. Detainees are not the only victims of apartheid's laws, which include all those unjustly imprisoned or facing trial. However it is important to stress that this petition calls for the release of those detained without trial.

The South African authorities often claim that people are detained pending prosecution; however over 75% of detainees are not taken to court and as few as 2-3% of the cases who do go to court result in positive prosecution.

## How many people are detained?

In June 1987 there were an estimated 3000+ people in detention. The number of those detained has increased sharply since 1983. During that year 500 people were detained. This figure rose to 1200 during 1984 and 11,000 during 1985. Since the declaration of the second State of Emergency on June 12th 1986 an estimated 30,000 people have been detained. Hiding behind the media clampdown, the regime is continuing to detain numerous people including prominent anti-apartheid leaders.

## How can people be detained without trial?

Simply because the South African authorities have enacted a barrage of security legislation which empowers the police and military to detain people even though they have committed no offence. Examples of these powers include laws under the Internal Security Act:

- Section 28 allows for 6 month renewable periods of detention
- Section 29 allows for indefinite detention for the purpose of interrogation

Under the State of Emergency, regulations exist allowing for people to be detained incommunicado for indefinite periods.

In Namibia Proclamations by the South African authorities allow the occupying apartheid army to enforce detention widely for prevention and interrogation.

## **SIGN THE PETITION NOW!**

## **Who is organising the National Petition Campaign?**

It is the first time that such a wide range of British organisations have come together to promote such a campaign. They are: The Anti-Apartheid Movement, British Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, The British Council of Churches, Christian Concern for Southern Africa, The Committee for International Justice and Peace of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, The Namibia Support Committee, National Steering Committee for Local Authorities Against Apartheid, The National Union of Students, Southern Africa the Imprisoned Society, The Trades Union Congress and The United Nations Association.

The British Council of Churches have prepared a special National Petition form especially for the Christian Church and the TUC have produced forms for its trade union affiliates. This leaflet has been designed specifically for use by people who are collecting signatures explaining the issues behind the campaign. Should you require a more detailed briefing please contact the National Petition Campaign.

I/We would like more information about detainees and political repression in South Africa and Namibia. Please send me:

_____ copies of the National Petition	Free
_____ copies of the BCC Petition	Free
_____ copies of the TUC Petition	Free
_____ copies of this Petition leaflet	Free
_____ National Petition stickers (12 per sheet)	25p per sheet
_____ National Petition poster	50p each
_____ A2 size poster Petition	50p each

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

**National Petition Campaign, PO Box 1004,  
London NW1 0EU Tel 01-387 8937**

## ***Is there other publicity material available?***

You can order as many copies of the National Petition as you need. There are also stickers to give to people who have signed the petition plus posters to advertise it — please use the form overleaf to order material.

## ***What is life like for detainees?***

Extremely arduous. It has been estimated that 89% of detainees are subject to either physical or mental torture. There have been many deaths in detention of which the most well known case was of Steve Biko on 12th September 1977. There is often no access to detainees by lawyers, doctors, family or friends. Campaigning for the release of detainees can contribute to the amelioration of such conditions.

## ***How can I get more information?***

Several of the organisations behind the National Petition have direct contact with organisations in South Africa and Namibia concerned with detainees; e.g. the TUC liaises with trade unions, the British Council of Churches with South African and Namibian churches. SATIS (Southern Africa — the Imprisoned Society) works specifically on the issue of political repression under apartheid. Complete the form below if you would like to become involved in these campaigns.

## ***Is there any more I can do?***

Yes, you can ensure that as many people as possible in your organisation know about and have signed the National Petition;

- Ask your branch/group to circulate the petition to every member
- Display a copy of the petition on your workplace/church/community/college noticeboard
- Put the issue of detainees and the Petition on the agenda of any meetings you attend.