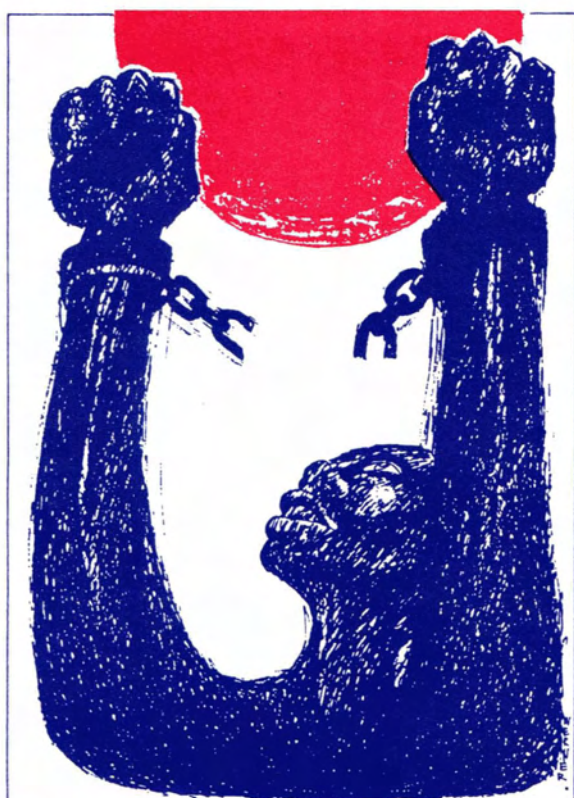


# **NAMIBIA: INDEPENDENCE NOW!**



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## **DECLARATION**

Namibia has been under colonial rule for 100 years; for most of that time under South African apartheid occupation. British governments have collaborated in this. **The Namibian people need your support to win their Independence Now.**

## AN APPEAL FROM SWAPO

This month we note that a full six years have passed since the UN Security Council adopted, on 29 September 1978, Resolution 435, its plan for UN-supervised and controlled elections in Namibia. Two days earlier, on 27 September, we note that ten years will have passed since the UN Council for Namibia issued Decree No 1 on the protection of Namibia's natural resources.

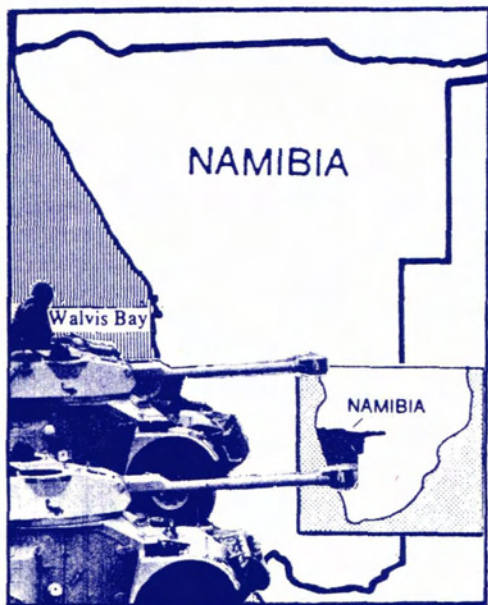
In recent decades numerous resolutions condemning South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia have been passed by both the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly. The racist South African regime has for decades flouted them all, including Resolution 435 which the three western permanent members of the Security Council (Britain, France and the USA) supported. It was, after all, their own plan negotiated with the Pretoria regime and ourselves.

Yet it is these same countries which, together with other western countries with close economic links with South Africa and South African-occupied Namibia, have consistently refused to use any form of effective pressure on the Pretoria regime to end its illegal occupation of our country and agree to the implementation of Resolution 435. Significantly, these western countries, and particularly Britain, remain the main culprits in illegally exploiting Namibia's natural resources in defiance of Decree No 1. SWAPO believes that implementation of Resolution 435 is long overdue. We believe that the hypocrisy of the British and other western governments should cease and that they should insist, with the considerable leverage which they could exercise over the South African regime, that Resolution 435 be implemented immediately.

To this end we appeal to the British people, to the political parties, trade unions, churches, humanitarian and aid organisations and to all who support our quest for the independence of Namibia to impress upon the British government the urgent need to implement Resolution 435, and thus bring an end to the war and hasten Namibia's independence.

SWAPO welcomes the Namibia: Independence Now campaign and hopes that it will bring about a much needed fundamental change in British government policy towards Southern Africa.

**SHAPUA KAUKANGUA, Chief Representative of SWAPO in the UK**



*The terror used by the South African army in Namibia against the civilian population is horribly illustrated by the recent case of Mr and Mrs Kapitanga. Mr Kapitanga was interviewed by a BBC television crew, subsequently expelled by South Africa from Namibia earlier this year. In June 1983 Mr Kapitanga, aged 63, was roasted alive on an oven by the 'security forces' and subsequently had to have his arm amputated. The soldiers raped Mrs Kapitanga while her husband was being tortured. Most such atrocities are never exposed. Nevertheless, dozens of cases such as this are reported in the Namibian newspapers. Even the colonial 'Bar Council' admitted in 1983 that it was 'shocked at instances of abuse of detainees and rape or death in detention' which make up the majority of cases in the Supreme Court.*

# NAMIBIA IN 1984: 100 YEARS OF COLONIAL EXPLOITATION

## NAMIBIA'S HOLOCAUST

For the Namibian people the year 1984 has great significance. One hundred years ago, in 1884, their country was colonised by imperial Germany. Britain had already seized Namibia's only deep-water port, Walvis Bay, and its enclave. To secure its conquest the German army launched a campaign of genocide unparalleled in recent colonial history. *Two thirds* of the Namibians in the south and central parts of the country were exterminated.

After the first world war the newly formed League of Nations, as part of the 'spoils of war', granted to 'His Britannic Majesty' a mandate to administer Namibia as a 'sacred trust'. Responsibility for the mandate was given to the Union of South Africa which already had a unique record of inhumanity towards its own population. The South Africans continued what the Germans had started. Namibians were banished to barren 'reserves', and forced into slave-like labour for the white man's profit. British-owned mining companies expanded their operations in Namibia, greedily exploiting the labour of the Namibian people. Further Namibian resistance and uprisings were ruthlessly suppressed, and British governments of the day defended South Africa at the League of Nations.

## THE MANDATE TERMINATED

When the United Nations was created to replace the League of Nations after the second world war, the British government again tried to defend South Africa's moves to incorporate Namibia into South Africa as its fifth province. During the 1950s and 1960s, Britain again protected South Africa from growing opposition in the UN and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The British government refused to recognise the termination of South Africa's 'mandate' by the United Nations General Assembly on 27 October 1966. Subsequently, it blocked all attempts to impose UN sanctions against South Africa to compel it to quit Namibia. When, in 1971, the International Court of Justice ruled that South Africa's occupation of Namibia was *illegal*, and that all dealings with the apartheid administration in Namibia must be ended, Britain, for the first time, chose to reject an ICJ opinion.

## THE UN PLAN FOR NAMIBIA

The courageous resistance of the Namibian people to the German conquest was brutally suppressed. In the 1940s a new challenge to South African rule emerged: after two further decades of peaceful resistance, the Namibian people had formed their national liberation movement, SWAPO, and in 1966 launched a struggle of armed resistance to win their rightful independence. SWAPO was recognised by the UN as the legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

The collapse of Portuguese colonialism in Africa, with independence in both Mozambique and Angola, had a profound impact on the entire Southern African region. It convinced the major western powers to intervene to try and control events, in particular in Zimbabwe and Namibia, and to protect South Africa from mounting international pressure for sanctions. The 'Western Contact Group' on Namibia, formed in 1977 by Britain, the US, Canada, France and West Germany, produced an 'Independence Plan'. This was agreed to by all parties, including South Africa and SWAPO, and was endorsed by the UN Security Council as Resolution 435 in September 1978.



Under this UN Plan there would be a ceasefire between SWAPO and South Africa, to be followed by elections under UN supervision and control seven months later. The Constituency Assembly elected would draw up an independence constitution. South Africa would abandon its programme of building tribal and racist puppet administrators and their fledgeling armed forces in Namibia, and almost all South African troops would leave Namibia. In return, SWAPO had reluctantly agreed to South Africa's administrators and police remaining until after the elections. Walvis Bay was excluded from the entire independence plan. (South Africa had annexed the port and enclave in 1977, resurrecting the 19th century British claim, although in 1922 South Africa had legislated to incorporate Walvis Bay into Namibia.)

## BRITISH SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S OBSTRUCTION

Despite the internationally endorsed agreement, the South African regime has to this day refused to implement it. The main reason has been the eagerness of the 'Western Contact Group', and in particular of successive British and US governments, to accept South Africa's excuses, together with a lack of public awareness and concern in these countries at this cynical reversal of this hypocritical policy. British and US connivance with South Africa has become even greater since the coming to power of Margaret Thatcher in 1979 and Ronald Reagan in 1981.

South Africa's excuses are always presented in complex and subtle 'diplomatic' language, and have received minimal press exposure, despite their rejection by almost all UN member states, the world community of churches and other humanitarian organisations, and, of course, by the Namibian people's movement SWAPO. Space does not allow us to list them all, but they include the accusation that the UN is biased; the demand that SWAPO forces must first be removed from Namibia, their homeland; the invention of a highly complex electoral system never before used in any decolonisation; and now both South Africa and the US are using the excuse of 'linkage'. This is an attempt to make the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola a precondition for the implementation of the UN Plan for Namibia. (Cuban forces were invited by the Angolan government to help defend their country from repeated invasions by South Africa.)

Britain, initially equivocal on 'linkage' (indeed in October 1983 it supported a UN Security Council resolution which condemned 'linkage'), now endorses it. Following the visit to Britain of the apartheid leader P W Botha in June 1984, Margaret Thatcher said that Namibian independence *'will not occur until there is, in parallel, also the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola'*. Britain has persistently refused to consider any measures to compel South Africa to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435, and has blocked every proposal for such action in the UN Security Council.

## WHAT FUTURE FOR NAMIBIA?

One hundred years after the start of the Namibian holocaust, the stage is now set, with British government complicity, for the continued racial oppression and exploitation of the Namibian people, with their necessary accompaniments of murder, torture and misery — *unless* we can mount a campaign that really exposes and challenges the hypocrisy of our government.

Meanwhile, British weapons systems and spare parts, fuel from British oil companies, finance from British banks and multinationals in Namibia, and even British mercenaries, are being used by the racist army to deny the Namibian people their right to independence, which has so long been withheld. And British companies will go on stripping Namibia of its mineral and other wealth, protected as they do so by the world's most intense military occupation.

## NAMIBIA: INDEPENDENCE NOW

The Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Namibia Support Committee are cooperating together to organise a nationwide campaign during the autumn of 1984, to focus public attention on the situation in Namibia and to secure a fundamental change in British policy.

Britain's responsibility for the situation in Namibia is second only to that of the apartheid regime itself. It is now 100 years since Namibia was first colonised; 18 years since South Africa's mandate to rule Namibia was terminated by the United Nations; and six years since the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 435 with the agreement of all the parties involved.

Yet Britain, instead of adopting measures to compel South Africa to get out of Namibia, has been adopting increasingly pro-South African policies. This must be challenged.

We are appealing to individuals and organisations to endorse the Declaration on Namibia; you will find the text on page 6 of this pamphlet.

We wish to demonstrate to the Conservative government the extent of public support in Britain for the cause of Namibian independence. Please try and persuade as many people as possible to sign the Declaration — either as individuals or on behalf of organisations. More copies of the pamphlet are available.

There will be a special International Week of Action on Namibia during the campaign, from 27 October to 3 November, when we will be urging our supporters to make a special effort to collect signatures. During this week there will be a lobby of parliament on 31 October, and those unable to attend we are urging to approach their MPs locally.

Please return completed Declarations to either the AAM or NSC by 1 December, as we plan to present them to Mrs Thatcher on 10 December, the 25th anniversary of the Katutura massacre — Namibia's Sharpeville — when the South African police murdered 11 peaceful demonstrators. 10 December is now marked as Namibian Women's Day. All donations collected will go towards the expenses of the campaign and should be sent to either the AAM or the NSC with cheques made out to 'Namibia Independence Now Campaign'. Contact either organisation for further details and a briefing document on the campaign.

Anti-Apartheid Movement  
13 Mandela Street  
London NW1 0DW  
Tel: 01-387 7966

Namibia Support Committee  
53 Leverton Street  
London NW5 2NX  
Tel: 01-267 1941



LINOCUT BY JOHN MUAFANGEJO, NAMIBIAN ARTIST.

**Help the Namibian people determine their own future. Break the terrible silence — campaign for this Declaration on Namibia. Demand NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE NOW!**

## **DECLARATION ON NAMIBIA**

Noting that 1984 marks one hundred years of colonial occupation of Namibia,

### **WE DECLARE**

- ★ Our total opposition to South Africa's illegal and inhuman occupation of Namibia and our solidarity with the people of Namibia and their liberation movement SWAPO, in their struggle for genuine independence.
- ★ Our recognition of the special responsibility of Britain towards the situation in Namibia and the total failure of successive governments to make any effective contribution to Namibia's independence, and in particular our grave concern at the policies of the current Conservative administration.
- ★ Our support for a fundamental change in British policy in order to bring independence now to the people of Namibia; this policy, to be pursued in cooperation with SWAPO and the UN Council for Namibia (the de jure administrative authority for Namibia), must be based upon the following:
  - A) the immediate implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 (the UN Decolonisation Plan for Namibia)
  - B) the total rejection of all attempts by South Africa to obstruct and delay the implementation of UNSCR 435, in particular the United States' and South Africa's 'linkage' of Namibian independence with the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola
  - C) the recognition that Walvis Bay is an integral part of Namibia and support for immediate action to end South Africa's annexation of the enclave, which includes Namibia's only deep-water port.

### **WE CALL UPON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ACT NOW TO:**

- 1) end all forms of collaboration with South Africa's illegal administration in Namibia
- 2) intervene to stop South Africa using Namibia as a base for acts of aggression against neighbouring African states, in particular Angola; to halt the conscription of Namibians into the South African armed forces; to prevent the systematic abuse of human rights; and to secure the release of all Namibian political prisoners and detainees.
- 3) isolate the apartheid regime and in particular to:
  - sever all British trade with and investment in Namibia, including the implementation of UN Decree No 1, and immediately ban the importing of Namibian uranium
  - strengthen and strictly implement the UN mandatory arms embargo
  - apply an effective oil embargo
  - work for the application of UN comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa.

**WE PLEDGE TO DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO ENSURE NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE NOW**

# ORGANISATIONS

NAME AND POSITION IN ORGANISATION	ORGANISATION AND ADDRESS	DONATION
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Further information on the Namibia: Independence Now campaign can be obtained from:

**The Anti-Apartheid Movement**  
13 Mandela Street  
London NW1 0DW  
Tel: 01-387 7966



The AAM was formed in 1959 and campaigns to inform and educate people in Britain about the evils of apartheid, to isolate apartheid South Africa economically, culturally, militarily, and in all other areas, and to win support for the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia.

The AAM works in political parties, churches, colleges, schools, trade unions and other organisations. It has over 70 local groups throughout the country, as well as national committees in Scotland and Wales. *Anti-Apartheid News*, which is published by AAM ten times a year, is sent to all members and contains news and information about events in Southern Africa, as well as details of campaigning initiatives.

Membership of the AAM is open to individuals and organisations. Individual rates are £7.50, £5.00 (students) and £3.00 (unwaged and OAPs).

**The Namibia Support Committee**  
PO Box 16  
53 Leverton Street  
London NW5 2NX  
Tel: 01-267 1941/2



The Namibia Support Committee, founded in 1969, campaigns nationally and provides information in support of SWAPO. The NSC conducts regular material aid appeals, particularly in the field of health, the specific needs of women in the refugee settlements and in the provision of educational materials. The NSC Health Collective and the SWAPO Women's Solidarity Campaign organise such campaigns under NSC's umbrella. NSC also campaigns for the release of Namibian political prisoners and detainees. In addition, the NSC convenes the Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contracts and supports other initiatives to stop British economic and military backing for the apartheid occupation of Namibia. NSC produces the *Namibia News Briefing* monthly and, together with a review publication, *Action on Namibia*, it is available to subscribers at £6 per annum. Organisations and individuals may affiliate to NSC.

**SWAPO of Namibia**  
96 Gillespie Road  
London N5  
Tel: 01-359 9116



SWAPO (the South West Africa People's Organisation) was formed in 1960 and is recognised by the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people. SWAPO has been waging a political and military struggle against South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, and cares for tens of thousands of Namibian refugees who have fled the terror of South Africa's occupation of their homeland. It has an office in London which can provide speakers for meetings, and information on its programme and objectives.