

BEWARE! IS YOUR COMPANY BREAKING INTERNATIONAL LAW?

UK COMPANIES WITH SUBSIDIARIES OR

*ASSOCIATES IN NAMIBIA · ACROW · BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL · BAT INDUSTRIES ·
BEECHAM GROUP · BESTOBELL · BICC · BLACKWOOD HODGE ·*

BOC GROUP · BRITISH PETROLEUM · BRITISH STEEL

CORPORATION · BTR · BURMAH OIL · CHLORIDE GROUP ·

COMMERCIAL UNION INSURANCE · CONSOLIDATED

GOLD FIELDS · GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY · GKN ·

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE · GUINNESS · HANSON

TRUST · LEGAL & GENERAL · LUCAS INDUSTRIES ·

EDWARD LUMLEY HOLDINGS · MARLEY · MINET

HOLDINGS · MIDLAND BANK · MITCHELL COTTS ·

JOHN MOWLEM · NORTHERN ENGINEERING

INDUSTRIES · NORWICH UNION · RACAL ·

RECKITT & COLMAN · RIO TINTO ZINC

· ROVER GROUP · ROYAL INSURANCE ·

SHELL · STANDARD CHARTERED

· STC · SUN ALLIANCE · THORN EMI ·

TURNER & NEWALL · WILLIS FABER ·

ACCOUNTANTS · ARTHUR

YOUNG · COOPERS & LYBRAND ·

DELOITTE HASKINS SELLS ·

PEAT MARMICK ·

BEWARE!

IS YOUR COMPANY BREAKING
INTERNATIONAL LAW?

Whatever you think about your company and the way it operates in
this country, if it is in Namibia it is breaking International Law.

Namibia – South Africa's Colony

Namibia is on the Atlantic coast of Africa bordering South Africa. It is currently under illegal military occupation by the apartheid regime. To maintain its rule, South Africa keeps an army of over 120,000 in Namibia. And it has imposed its own apartheid system on the territory. The tiny white minority in Namibia enjoys total political, economic and social dominance over the black majority – in fact inequality between black people and white in Namibia is the worst in the world.

Illegal Occupation

In 1966 the United Nations withdrew South Africa's mandate to administer Namibia. Both the United Nations Security Council and the International Court of Justice have since declared South Africa's occupation to be illegal. In June 1978 the British Government supported UN Resolution 435 outlining a plan for Namibian independence with free elections but has done nothing to implement this plan. One of the main reasons for this inactivity is that powerful economic interests are profiting from South Africa's illegal occupation.

Flouting the Law

A quarter of all foreign companies in Namibia are British. By exploiting Namibia's abundant natural resources and often by paying poverty wages in conditions of semi-slavery, these companies are making money from the suppression of Namibia's freedom.

The United Nations backed by the International Court of Justice, has specifically said that all firms with interests in Namibia which give recognition to the illegal South African regime (eg by using official forms, abiding by official regulations, paying taxes or customs duties) are breaking international law.

In particular, companies engaged in mineral exploitation, mining or the servicing of the mining industry are guilty of plundering Namibia's natural resources in breach of a specific UN order (UN Decree No. 1) which expressly prohibits such activities.

Not only are these companies operating illegally, many are actively involved in sustaining South Africa's illegal administration:

- Shell and BP supply fuel to the army of occupation.
- Standard Chartered Bank provides financial services for the illegal administration.
- ICL sells computers to the illegal South African administration.
- Rio Tinto Zinc and Consolidated Gold Fields employ their own security forces and pay huge amounts in tax to the illegal regime.

Because of the role of foreign companies in sustaining South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, SWAPO, the liberation movement recognised as the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people, has consistently called for their withdrawal from the country and for total sanctions against South Africa.

So if your company appears on the list, it is not only helping to support the brutal apartheid system, but it is defying international law.

What You Can Do

- Raise the issue of South Africa's occupation of Namibia within your company and your union.
- Contact the Anti-Apartheid Movement for more information about the role of your company in Namibia.
- Ask for a speaker from SWAPO, the AAM or the Namibia Support Committee to come to your union branch or other group to tell you more about the campaign.
- Join the Anti-Apartheid Movement.