



American Committee on Africa

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HUMAN RIGHTS DAY RALLIES IN SOUTH AFRICA - December 8.

CABLE YOUR MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TODAY !

**TO: Human Rights Committee
19 Parktown Court
Empire Road
Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa**

In an unprecedented appeal for open international support Glenn Moss, Committee for Human Rights in South Africa has sent the following communication to the American Committee on Africa, NYC and other groups in the struggle for human rights:

"Greetings,

"We are writing to inform you of the recent establishment of National Committees on Human Rights in South Africa. We are planning to organize rallies throughout South Africa on Sunday, December 8th, the day before the United Nations Human Rights Day, and it is in this regard that we are appealing to organizations throughout the world for messages of support and solidarity with the aims of the Human Rights Day rallies in South Africa.

"BACKGROUND TO HUMAN RIGHTS DAY RALLIES

"The recent session at the United Nations has illustrated the extent to which South Africa has been prepared to go, in an attempt to convince the Western world that change is imminent in South Africa.

"Mr. R.F. Botha, South African Ambassador to the United Nations, told the Security Council the following.

"The Whites of South Africa, as well as the Government of South Africa, are as much concerned about the implementation of human rights, human freedoms, human dignities and justice, as any other nation of government of the world."

"Many Government's have reacted with much enthusiasm to what appears to be a change in orientation of South Africa's policies. People have spoken of "The Winds of Change", and of "Things getting better." But what are the facts about the state of human rights in South Africa?

"The world appears to be easily misled on the whole question of change in South Africa. White election results, the speeches of "homeland leaders", Black entertainers in white concert halls, "multi-national" sports teams, and even a "multi-national" delegation to the United Nations, all seem to be interpreted as cracks in the edifice of white supremacy.

"But these perpheral concessions are nothing other than the elimination of certain tangible racialistic irritants. The effects of which will be to consolidate the power basis for the perpetuation of white supremacy.

"Those, both interationally and domestically, who believe that significant change is occuring in South Africa, are those whose interests in South Africa are such, that they must uphold such changes as a rationalisation for their exploitative practices in South Africa.

"Significantly, while Vorster and Botha were proffering assurances of change to the world, at least thirty-five young black people were detained under section 6 of South Africa's notorious Terrorism Act.

"This section empowers the Security Police to detain any person indefinitely, in solitary confinement and without access to lawyers, courts, family or friends.

"Allegations of torture, while in detention, have been widespread, and at least 22 people are known to have died while detained by the Security Police.

"All the people presently held in detention are associated in some way with the Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa, and it is clear from the detentions and other actions that Vorster's apartheid regime will in no way tolerate real opposition.

"Because of the enduring situation in South Africa whereby basic human rights are totally ignored by the regime, a group of people have set up ad hoc committees for human rights in Cape Town, Durban, and Johannesburg. The short term intention of these committees is to disseminate as much information about the real situation in South Africa as possible, both internally and abroad, and to organise mass rallies on United Nations Human Rights Day, focussing on South Africa's continued non-adherence to the United Nations Charter of Human Rights. In particular, the plight of the present detainees will be focussed on, but all activities will aim at pointing out that fundamental change in South Africa is needed, and not the piecemeal rationalisation programmes of Vorster and Botha.

"The rallies are planned for Sunday, December 8th. It is hoped that the activities of the Human Rights Committees will, in some small way assist in bringing this to South African and International attention.

"A number of publications on these matters are in the process of preparation, and these will be sent to you as soon as possible.

"Meanwhile, messages of international solidarity with the aims of Human Rights Day Rallies in South Africa would be most appreciated from you and your organization. Messages should be sent to the Human Rights Committee, 19 Parktown Court, Empire Road, Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa.

"From there, they will be communicated to the committees in Durban, Cape Town, and Johannesburg. Your support will be greatly appreciated,

In solidarity,

(signed) Glenn Moss

COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA"

The American Committee on Africa has issued a widespread appeal to prominent individuals and organizations to cable messages of encouragement and support.

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