

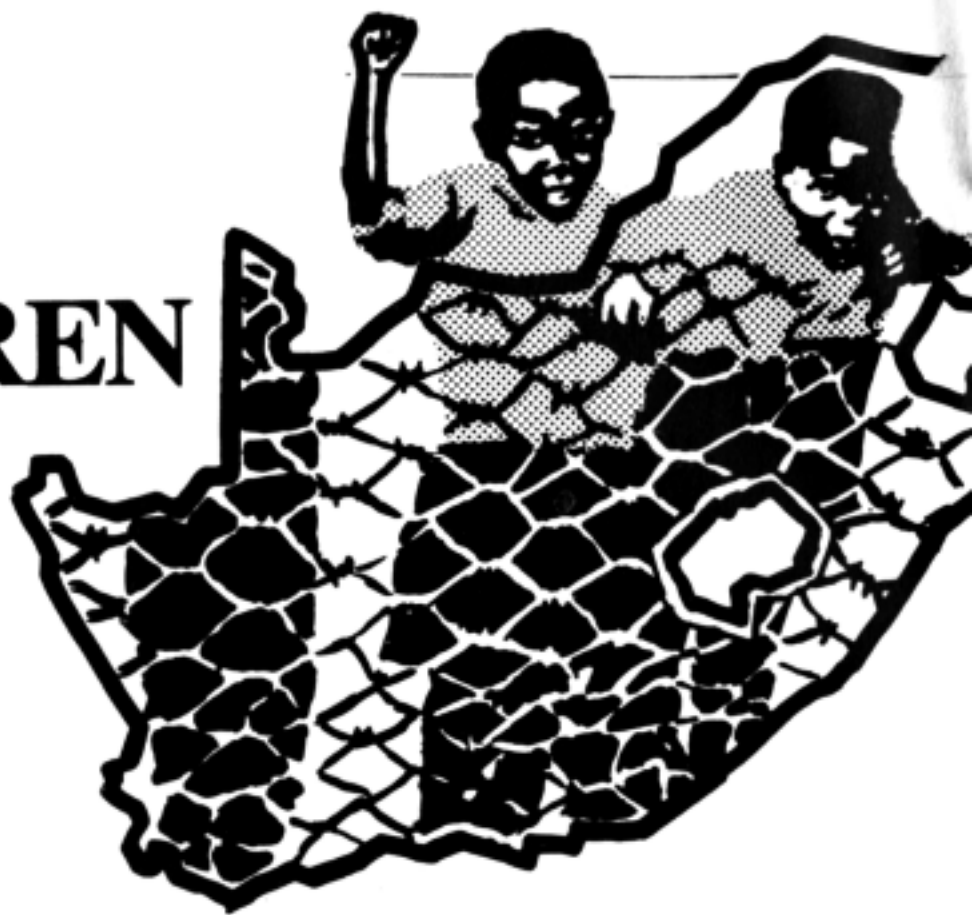
# FREE THE CHILDREN

**M**ore than 300 have been killed. 173 000 'awaited trial' in custody in 1985 and 1986. About 2 815 were serving jail sentences in January 1988, and 2 280 under the age of three accompanied their mothers to prison last year.

In prison, unprotected, they are subjected to the worst form of physical and mental abuse — rape, torture, flayings. Those are children, South African children — the sick record that South Africa holds — was presented at the four-day International Conference held in Harare recently on Children, Repression and the Law in Apartheid South Africa. The testimonies given surpassed Hitler's handiwork in modern-day history. No wonder Adriaan Vlok fumed and, as befits the psyche of his lot, sadists, dispatched a telegram to the conference, warning that deliberations 'would not pass unnoticed'.

South Africa has no children. Elsewhere in the world, the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child are upheld. The most basic right — the right to full opportunity for play — is costly in South Africa. A team of eleven Black children was shot dead playing football — making the habitual detention of children walking or simply in the streets lighter in comparison to that heinous act.

Is the killing of children therefore, their abduction, detention, forced indoctrination in so-called rehabilitation centres, Adriaan Vlok's conception of taking a very keen interest in the well-being of the youth of South Africa? It is an absurd way of caring for the children and defeats logic.



The world should take note that the 'independent judiciary' Adriaan Vlok invites organisations to submit information to investigation about the abuse of children detainees, exists so for consolidating the apartheid state. Under the State of Emergency, the South African legal system does not, in any way, take into consideration the Child Care Act nor the Criminal Procedure Act. The whole process of detaining minors — children, therefore, makes a mockery of the so-called just, independent South African judicial system that we hear about. After all, whom does the South African legal system serve? Obviously, not the oppressed Black majority, as South African laws in general do not benefit the masses.

It is vital therefore, as the Harare Conference declared, that the international community should intensify more than ever before economic and political pressure on the Pretoria regime. The world should not be deceived by those who claim that the sanctions campaign has run out of steam and that sanctions are ineffective. The advocates of this approach coldly profit out of apartheid. It is urgent that an international campaign be mounted as well to expose the illegitimacy of the South African legal system.



*Masupatsela showing the world that apartheid will crumble*