

EUROPEAN YOUTH AGAINST APARTHEID - A PROPOSAL FOR A CAMPAIGN BY FRÈRES DES HOMMES

On the 12th of March, the Free the Children Alliance in South Africa, launched a nation-wide campaign, and at the same time appealed to all concerned, to support it abroad. Frères des Hommes, with the collaboration of another 40 organisations, and among them the French Anti-Apartheid Movement, teachers' unions, the Socialist Party, etc. decided to respond. Badges were produced, posters, documents, etc. Public response was excellent: 55 000 badges were sold (with the slogan: "enough with apartheid!"), 35 000 post-cards that were sent to the SA embassy and to the french Prime Minister, plus more than 5000 documents (16-32 pages, giving good background information). To reach an as wide as possible public, the idea of a thousand concerts for freedom was proposed: close to 400 actually took place, with a total public of 30 000. Frères des Hommes has branches in Belgium and Italy, were a similar effort took place.

Because of the summer holidays, everything had to be done very very quickly. Many people later contacted us, telling that they would be ready to participate at a later date, among them many still at school. So, as school resumed last week, we launched a new campaign, which will probably get also the support of many other french organisations, although several are already busy with their own programmes.

The campaign

The plan is as follows:

- in September/October, a number of articles will be published in the media, plus interviews on the radio, possibly on TV.
- On the 10/11 October, 50-100 secondary school students will meet in Paris to decide about the programme, their programme. Because the idea is to involve the youth, in their own way in doing things. We propose to hold a meeting (we wish to reach a very large audience, i.e. not only with already politically conscious people) on human rights and development in SA, in Paris on the 6.12.87, with 400-500 youth. The youth will have to decide about:
 - .what content of this day on apartheid.
 - .who is going to participate;
 - .what will be done before the meeting takes place by all participants, etc.

Frères des Hommes has a network of a hundred groups of activists for solidarity with the third world: many of them will be mobilised. There is a network of 200 secondary school medias (newspapers, radios, videos by the students themselves): they will participate as well. And the youth magazine L'Etudiant is supporting the campaign also (the meeting will be held in their building). We are still looking for a radio and a TV network to participate and hope we will succeed.

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à partir du 18 septembre 1987

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We will suggest to the youth to investigate on apartheid, from local resources: people who have been in SA, publications, films, correspondance with SA. They will produce posters, poems, a video, a radio interview, etc. The best people will be sent as reporters to SA, each for one media, most probably during the easter holidays. During the 6 dec. meeting, part of the public will be constuted of these young reporters, who will report on the event. We have good hope for a wide press coverage on the occasion.

-After easter: when the young winners return from SA with their documents, we will try to arrange them to reach a very wide public through the media. In May (after the presidential elections in France), we will try again to have "concerts for freedom", more than 400 this time. In May, there is also the 40th anniversary of apartheid.

-In June, we will organise a march on Strasbourg, or something similar, to put maximum pressure on the EEC to intervene against apartheid.

Belgium, Italy,

This campaign would have a much bigger impact if people from other countries would participate. We wish thus to extend our invitation to all interested, to contact us so that things could be properly organised. Belgium and Italy have shown their willingness to get involved. We would like to insist for some homogeneity in the initiatives in the different countries, so that a real dialogue could take place in Paris in December. And of course all suggestions are welcome.

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