

# WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED!!



We, the below-mentioned organisations and concerned individuals note once again that the state is demonstrating its failure once more to solve the situation in South Africa.

When we focus on the recent attacks of the State on the Church, then we need to note: that this is an attack on everybody who aligns him/herself with the Church, and not just an attack on certain individuals.

This country is facing an irreversible crisis. The state came up with the State of Emergency and mass detention of our people.

On the Labour front the workers union has been hampered severely in carrying out its task of representing the most exploited section of our society. This has been done by introducing the Labour Relations Act Amendment Bill of 1988 and its implications.

We also point out the Education Bill will have disastrous effects on Education. We have thousands of youth behind bars without formal charges laid against them: the recent detention of Peter Mokaba, President of SAYCO under section 29; the Delmas trial which has been running for 3 years without concrete charges against the comrades involved.

We have the banning of the New Nation for three months and the possible similar action against Grassroots, Saamstaan, South, Weekly Mail and Sowetan.

The recent bannings and restrictions on 18 organisations and individuals are unjust and evil for they are silencing the democratic voice and destroying non-violent options in our resistance.

This led to the strong protest action by the Church which was subsequently followed by the State's unreasonable attack on the Church, saying the Church must confine itself to what he calls the gospel. What does P.W. Botha know about the Gospel? Shouldn't he be the last person to speak about the Gospel?

We believe the Church is aimed at promoting and seeking sound justice and peace in S.A. If the state is against that it is against the will of God. This reality urges us as Christians to disobey and defy the State, working towards its downfall. It is the Churches' task to defend the poor and powerless.

The State is clearly trying to shift the focus away from the banning and restrictions of leaders. We thus need to expose this strategy and challenge the action against these democratic organisations which represent the oppressed masses of South Africa. What should then be the response of the Church in a situation like this which we are experiencing?

How can we be silent when people created in the image of God are denied basic human rights?

How can we be silent when P.W. Botha stops the trial of six S.A.D.F. soldiers in Namibia by means of certificate, but fails to extend clemency to the Sharpeville 6?

We cannot be silent! If we do then we would be denying our calling to seek justice, to love God and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. If the government wants to deny us this, then they want us to deny obedience unto God. Thus we are being challenged to obey God and not human beings

**SIGNED:**

Anglican Students Society

Anglican Youth Department

Association for Christian Students (U.W.C.)

Concerned Seventh Day Adventist Individuals

Koinonia

Students Union for Christian Action

Young Christian Students

Western Province Council of Churches Inter-Church Youth (W.P.C.C.I.C.Y.)

The Ecumenical Action Movement.

**SUNDAY 8 MAY 1988**  
**A CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT**  
**COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
**SALT RIVER**  
**STARTING AT 9h00 - 16h00**  
**THE FOCUS :**  
**THE CHURCH A SITE OF STRUGGLE**  
**ALL WILL BE WELCOME**

Issued by: Christian Activist Forum, Community House, Salt River Road, Salt River

Printed by: Allie's Printing Services, Epping Ave. Elsies River