

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA

Provisional Headquarters,  
P.O. Box 680,  
Morogoro,  
TANZANIA.

26.9.73

Appeal to the United Nations, to all Governments,  
Trade Union Organisations and Mass Organisations.

---

On the 26th of June, 1973, a date which marks South African Freedom Day and which has traditionally been observed as a day of re-dedication to the cause and struggle for freedom in South Africa, the African National Congress launched an intensified, sustained and co-ordinated campaign for the release of all political prisoners, people in banishment and restricted and banned people in South Africa.

These people are held under conditions which are in direct violation of the Declaration of Human Rights (International Law), and which are an outrage to the consciences of the peoples of South Africa, Africa, and the world.

In 1963, the United Nations General Assembly voted on a demand for the release of all political prisoners of South Africa during the Rivonia Trial, and demanded their release on a vote of 106 to 1 (South Africa being the only country to vote against the resolution).

The International Trade Union Conference Against Apartheid, held in Geneva from 15 to 16 June 1973, which was attended by 380 delegates from more than 200 trade union organisations representing 186 million workers, "strongly urged all workers and trade union organisations to give full support to the oppressed workers of South Africa by campaigning for an immediate and unconditional release of all trade union and political prisoners ... " in South Africa.

The world wide condemnation of apartheid explicitly involved the demand for the restoration of human rights for

all the peoples of South Africa, and in particular, those who are unjustly arrested, banished, restricted, and banned under fascist laws in South Africa. Amongst the people who are suffering under this fascist torture are the cream of the leaders of the liberation struggle in South Africa, who uphold the ideals and ideas of the international community expressed in the Charter of Human Rights. This torture is therefore a torture and gross crime not only against themselves as persons, but against the whole progressive and peace-loving community in South Africa, Africa, and the world. This is intolerable, and if, indeed, we follow the precepts of the U.N. General Assembly resolution designating 1971 as the Year of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, we are all bound in duty to take every possible action to secure the release of these heroes.

We call upon

- a. The United Nations Organisation to take concrete measures to secure the release of all political prisoners, banished people, restricted and banned people in South Africa, failure of which must result in the immediate expulsion of South Africa from the United Nations Organisation for its gross crimes against the Principles, Resolutions, and Conventions of that Organisation;
- b. All Governments, individually and collectively, to demand the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, and people under banishment, restriction, and banning orders in fascist South Africa, and to assert that, unless this is done, all forms of sanctions, including the breaking off of diplomatic relations, will be imposed.

We call upon all mass organisations, trade unions, student movements and churches to immediately embark on a sustained and co-ordinated campaign through demonstrations at South African embassies and other South African racist institutions in their countries for the release of all poli-

tical prisoners and persons suffering under banishment, restriction and banning orders in South Africa. In addition to this, we call upon all progressive organisations to hold consistent mass meetings and demonstrations, and to send letters of protest and postcards by the million to the fascist regime of South Africa expressing these demands, and to organise other activities appropriate to your countries.

We call upon all governments, trade unions organisations and mass organisations to give full support to the oppressed peoples of South Africa engaged in a legitimate struggle against the racist minority regime of South Africa by giving financial, moral and material support to the South African Liberation Movement led by the African National Congress.

Alfred Nzo,  
SECRETARY GENERAL,  
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Please address all correspondence in connection with this appeal to:

The Secretary,  
Committee for the Release of Political  
Prisoners,  
African National Congress (South Africa)  
P.O. Box 1791,  
Lusaka, Zambia