

"THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITED AGAINST APARTHEID FOR A  
DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA" - SPEAKER FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC  
MOVEMENT -- YOUTH

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The South African Youth Congress sends its warmest greetings to the International Democratic Movement at this Conference, and to the sole and authentic People's Movement, the ANC, to which the entire democratic movement in the country attaches great respect and honour for its 75 years of hard and tireless struggle towards the liberation of the people of South Africa.

The youth movement in the country, side by side with other democratic forces, continues to render the Botha-Malan military junta ungovernable. The evidence of this is the continued fear by the regime of the youth movement, which is manifested in the brutal killings, detentions, abductions and torture of the youth by the Pretoria regime.

The organisation of the youth has recently reached all corners in South Africa. The urban, peri-urban and rural areas are injected with youth activities which the police and the army try - without success - to totally exterminate.

The formation of the civic associations is but one of the many examples of the youth's commitment to render apartheid ungovernable. This formation has so undermined the government that alternative structures replacing puppet community councils came into existence.

The initiative of the youth in South Africa can also be seen with regard to their organisation of anti-apartheid recreational activities - such as parks named after the people's leaders and the people's soccer clubs changing names, etc. The production of drama and plays which are on a par with the revolutionary mood have become a continuous practice which the government has tried to gag and ban, but they still exist in different forms.

The youth display a commitment to the cause of the liberation of the people by playing an active role in campaigns such as that to Save the 32 Patriots. We request the international community to support this campaign, as the people waiting the hangman's day are actually innocent

people who share the same feelings of human freedom and dignity with

Consumer boycotts, stayaways and other such related campaigns are manned by the youth and, without doubt, these proved successful. The formation of SRCs has been one of the tasks the youth has to carry out and disseminate throughout the institutions of learning in the country. These formations have undermined the authority of Pretoria's education system which is, of course, education for servitude. To this end the question of people's education became an important demand.

The youth strongly fought and opposed the age-group system in schools which the apartheid education department wanted to impose. The students fought and are still fighting for the "doors of learning and culture to be opened", as the clause of the Freedom Charter states.

It is without doubt possible to say that the youth movement contributed to pushing the government to declare the latest emergency, which is being used to try and wipe out any form of youth activity in the country.

The state of emergency, still in force, has been the cover under which the atrocious and spine-chilling activities of the South African police, security police and SADF - including the notorious, unscrupulous kitskonstabels - have become the order of the day.

The witch-hunt on youth activists has led to the displacement of the youth who have become refugees within their own country.

This has further led to assault and other forms of harassment by the kitskonstabels to the families of the youth activities. The witch-hunt has further destroyed the parent-child relationship of the home situation.

The student movement found itself clamped down in school as well as in higher institutions of learning experiencing armies inside their campuses. The army has become part of the administration and staff in some cases.

The occupation of the university of the North by the SADF for more than a year is a good example of the clamp on activists in institutions of learning.

Many of the student activist had to choose the hardest road i.e. abandoning the education career. This in itself continues to perpetuate illiteracy which the Botha regime deliberately but subtly wish to achieve. The brutal killing of SRC leader Caiphus Ngoka brought shock waves to the student movement and threatened other student activists already on the run. Methods of defence are being devised.

The Pretoria Government continues with its policy of pacifying the youth activity by organizing the youth under the disguise of holiday camps or trips to train the youth how to shoot and further brainwash them in Anti-UDF and Anti-Democratic movement - as a whole - skills. The youth are here further made to turn into informers for the government.

The offer of employment by the government, taking advantage of the high unemployment rate, and their offer of tempting remuneration and security has led to many youth who are unable to attend schools falling for recruitment into the army. This practice is prevalent in the Dantustans of rural areas which are the reserves of exploitable labour; although this tried to divide the youth and actually sow enmity, many of those recruited, realising how they are used against their people, ended up escaping from army camps. The kwa-Ndebele case is an example of youth who after realising their alienation from the community decided to quit the K D Force. These comrades are still sought to this day.

Comrade Chairma, all these reflect the situation which the Pretoria govt. finds itself in and thus resorts to brutality and tyranny to defend the already dying apartheid system. It is the brutality of the forces in power which made the democratic forces feel that the time is not yet ripe under these circumstances to go to the negotiation table. That the table on which negotiations have to take place is covered with the cloth of blood of the people whose ideas and beliefs in the united and non-racist democratic South Africa have to be represented.

The struggle shall continue and victory is certain.

Viva ANC -- Amandla