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African National Congress (South Africa)

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Anti Apartheid Demonstration 29/11/86 Bonn

Dear Friends,

We bring you solidarity greetings from the African National Congress and indeed from the people of South Africa.

We would like to thank the organisers, the Anti Apartheid movement and all those involved in making this demonstration the success it is.

We thank those who have signed the appeal for this demonstration because their signatures and support addresses the oppressed in South and Southern Africa.

This demonstration tells our people that there are Germans who do not support Apartheid, but are for the total destruction of this inhuman system. We will accept this demonstration as a message that your governments love for Apartheid your government's defense of the system of Apartheid and their hypocritical statements are not accepted by you.

Konto: ANC (South Africa)

Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, Bonn · Konto-Nr. 1023135700 · BLZ 38010111

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Friends,

We were told, that the construction plans for U-Boats were delivered to South Africa by a WestGerman company. No matter under what circumstances this took place this weapon will be used to destabilize and attack the neighbouring countries. This U-Boat, seen together with the military helicopters recently supplied to the South African police, and the Unimogs, which are being used in the black ghettos in South Africa, is a terrible indictment against the Federal Government. It is a shame that on your behalf weapons of death and destruction are being delivered to the racists in South Africa. These murderous weapons must also be seen in the context of tens of thousands of people in the prisons, who have been arrested during the present state of emergency. Half of these arrested are under 18, including children as young as 10. The majority of these human beings have been tortured and some even killed in custody. The South African police have been using their black puppets in the bantustans, including people like Buthelezi, to attack and murder black activists fighting against Apartheid.

The supply of arms and ammunition of your country must be seen in the light also of the continuing forced removals of 4 million of our people from so-called "white" to "black" South Africa.

Government spokesmen, when they praise Apartheid and defend the system, forget to mention the fact, that in the so-called "homelands" of South Africa, we have one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. They forget to say that an average of 2-4 miners die every day in the mines of South Africa - miners that live like animals without their families and are treated like subhumans.

We are told that the Botha regime should be given a chance because it is instituting "reforms". The oppressed of South Africa do not want to live under a more comfortable slave society, they know that this brutal system can never be reformed. It has to be eradicated and destroyed.

It's place has to be taken by a democratic society based on "one person - one vote" in a united country. In South Africa such a democratic society cannot be achieved with political rights only. We will have to make the economy serve the interests of our people and not a handful of monopolies and a privileged small section of our society.

Dear Friends, Apartheid can never be developed into a human system. It has, in fact, become even more oppressive internally, and increasingly aggressive against it's neighbours. This is because of the serious challenge it faces from both the South African and the Southern African people. With all the arrests, torture, and murder, our whole population is in revolt, every section of our people - the workers, the youth, the women and their organisations are today actively opposing and challenging the system.

Those arrested and killed, are activists of our trade unions, our churches, our community, women's and youth organisations. They are the true representatives of our people.

This revolt of our people has spread to every corner of our country. No bantustan or so-called "Homeland"-government or puppets like the community councils, bodies, who were imposed on our people, can feel safe today. Our people are prepared to sacrifice their lives for a better South Africa.

There is no going back on our demands. We will, through blood and sacrifice, free our country of this barbaric system.

Nevertheless our people have realised that the struggle against racism and Apartheid demands the involvement of the whole international community. Our people have demanded that you participate in this struggle by totally isolating and boycotting the regime and the system. Our people know the consequences of such a boycott, they know the added suffering, that it will create, but know, that no victory can be achieved without sacrifice.

South Africa is going through its most severe political and economic crisis in its history.

It is not sanctions that is responsible for the death and starvation. It is the fascist system that is responsible. Today we have between 4 to 6 million unemployed in South Africa. 50 % of our people in the cities are unemployed, 70 % of our people in the so-called "Homelands" are unemployed.

The Apartheid system is a disaster. We want mandatory and comprehensive sanctions now, so that our people could live.

1987 is not only a decisive year in the history of our people it is the 75th anniversary of the ANC.

We call upon you, we call upon your churches, your trade-unions, we call upon the political parties and the people of the FRG to make 1987 the year of decision. Let us not tell our people that you are against apartheid in words. Let us tell them what you are for. We together with our people are going to increase and widen our struggle on all fronts and with every weapon in our hands, including armed struggle.

We need your political, moral and material support. Solidarity is never one sided. Apartheid concerns all of us. Racism concerns all of us. Let us together wipe it off the face of this earth.

We call upon you to support the Front Line States.

We call upon you to support SWAPO and the people of Namibia.

We take this opportunity to send our fraternal greetings to the peoples of Nicaragua, Chile, El Salvador, East Timor, West Sahara, Palestine and all those who are fighting against imperialism and colonialism. Victory is certain!

AMANDLA!