

Anti-Apartheid Movement  
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PARTHEID WAR

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LET IIA JIMMY

COME HOME

TO FREEDOM

This autumn the AAM is  
launching a campaign on  
the theme "Stop the Apart-  
heid War" with the twin  
objectives of publicising  
South Africa's war of  
aggression against  
independent countries in  
the region, and of  
intensifying the campaign  
against military and  
nuclear collaboration with  
South Africa.

An integral part of the campaign will be a week of action on Namibia from the 27th October to 2nd November. The purpose of the week's action is to highlight the Namibian struggle for independence, to expose British collaboration with South Africa and to challenge British policies - in particular, military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa, which enables the apartheid regime to sustain its illegal occupation of Namibia.

The Swapo Women's Solidarity Campaign and the AAM Women's Committee have drawn attention to the plight of Ida Jimmy, who has been in prison for about 3 years, and has 5 more years to serve for "encouraging and inciting people to give support to SWAPO guerillas". On 26th August, Namibia Day, a petition calling for Ida Jimmy's release, signed by over 6,000 people, was handed in to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street.

Imprisonment has been harsh, but Ida's mother has supported her throughout. Visits are difficult, her mother says, as "we have strict instructions from the prison authorities to speak only in Afrikaans. My Afrikaans is not good and I cannot express myself well in that language. There is always a prison guard with us watching everything..It is really only possible to say "Hello, how are you," and nothing else.'I

In May of this year, Ida's son, Richard, became ill and died. He was only 2½ years old. The tragic story of his short life illustrates the harshness of conditions for political prisoners and their families in Namibia.

Ida was pregnant when she was imprisoned, and Richard was born in prison. He spent the "first year of his life with his mother behind bars in Windhoek Central Prison, and at 1 year old was sent to Ida's mother to look after.

"I'm 63 years old", Ida's mother explained, "I cannot go out to work because of my health. It is difficult for me to feed and clothe myself and the children. My husband has

just been dismissed from his job. He was working for the same company for 38 years. One day he did not go to work because he thought it was Sunday when it was Monday. When he turned up the next day they just told him to leave. Since then, he has been unable to find another job. My first daughter passed away some time ago, leaving four children. Two of them are living in Windhoek because they are working, and I have just sent another to join them. One is still with me here. II

Richard Jimmy's death was a result of the poverty, illness and inadequate health care in South African occupied Namibia. He was born into tragic circumstances but the tragedy continues after his death; the prison authorities refused permission for Ida to attend her child's burial; saying "after careful consideration and with regard for the humane aspect, I must inform you that the request can unfortunately not be granted.

The struggle for the liberation of Namibia promises to change the conditions that led to the death of Ida's child, and gives strength to women like Ida who are struggling for change. Her mother is sure that Ida will soon see a free Namibia: "Once when I went to visit her she started to cry a lot. I told her that everything is in the hands of the Lord, and one day 2 she will come home to freedom."

Hiune 9m 1983"

Three young men were hung this An air controller yawns  
morning while we slept. at his new radar screen.  
Gone before the sun could burn He guides a fighter  
holes in the conscience on into Mozambique, reconnaissance  
their judges or the noose routine.  
around their necks. No human targets this time,  
just an arms embargo full of  
Not far away a newborn baby holes.  
slithers out between black thighs. Marconi's latest gadgets for  
She screams with rage. blanket bombing and patrols.  
A sleepless statistician makes  
another anxious mark upon Somewhere along the border  
the smoking page. guerrillas go to ground. 7M  
The future of South Africa The wireless spits and spluttergw  
is black. and they huddle round. h  
There's not much time to mourn,  
As usual, the squatters outside the sun's about to rise.  
Cape Town sing till dawn, And Simon. Jerry, Marcus -  
Their wood and plastic shacks died with freedom in their eyes.  
bull-dozed into the sand.  
Botha sleeps on.  
Handcuffed, two by two,  
a silent column marches Kathleen McCreery.  
in the grey Soweto light.  
"Hey, pass, man!" Four  
police, no place to run,  
no chance to fight.  
The three men hanging killed  
policemen, so it's said.  
The first cocks crow,  
a red-necked farmer wraps  
a pillow round his head.  
An airplane lands -  
thin strings of sunlight  
reach across the cold runway  
More British migrants stumble  
out, still dreaming what  
they'll do with all that pay.  
Steel workers fleeing dole  
queues on the Tyne.  
White engineers to supervise  
black mines.  
White nurses healing this side  
of the colour line.  
Back home the battered ballot  
boxes wait  
for bits of paper blindly  
crossed with Falklands fever,  
headlines, hate.

## DEBATE COLUMN

### MATERIAL AID

#### ISN,T CHARITY!

October 15th is National day of action to collect material aid For ANC and Swapo. Although the initiative for this Game From the AA womens committee it has been taken up by the movement as a whole. We should see this as a small triumph for women, For Fund-raising and collections of this Kind are so often dehegrated and seen as womens work.

There are however, obvious dangers in concentrating solely on material aid- the AAM is not a Charitable body, but is a political organisation and we are not interested in promoting an image of "helpless refugees". The material aid campaign is only useful in so far as it is an integral part of a wider campaign to win support for the liberation movements, ANC and SWAPU. Through material aid collections, information about the struggles in SA and Namibia can be disseminated and each contribution can become a political act of support For the struggle against apartheid.

24-25 Sept. Activists'

W, Goldsmiths

College, London. Information on campaigning, speakers, films, videos, discussions. Details and registration forms from AAM Headquarters, 13 Selous Street, London NW1

15 Oct. Day of Action for Material Aid. Contact your local group or AAM points.

#### DIARY

Headquarters For collection 4

In the context of the autumn campaign on the theme, "Stop the Apartheid war", shoppers collections can provide a means to inform the public about SA's attacks on refugees in the frontline states. It may seem easier to appeal to people to give on humanitarian grounds- to show pictures of wide-eyed Children and to avoid more "touchy" background. But unless we make the struggle against apartheid the central focus of our collections on October 15th, although we may gain some useful items for refugees, we won't have won the political battle of building support and solidarity in Britain For the fight against apartheid.

Jan Clements.

17 Oct. AAM women's Committee

WIS: Picket of SA House

Trafalgar Square, 1-2 o.m.

to protest at detention of

Albertina Sisulu of the UDF

27 Oct. - 2 Nov. week of

3313157 on Namibia. Mon.

31 Oct AAM women's Committee

and smsc are organising a

demonstration outside the  
CEGB to protest at their  
use of Namibian uranium.  
Details from Sue Longbottom,  
01-387-7966

## WOMEN JOIN THE

### UDF AGAINST

August 1983 was a momentous month in the history of resistance in South Africa. Each week brought news of crowded meetings protesting at apartheid, pledging support for the liberation struggle and solidarity with political prisoners. Women were prominent among the speakers, some because they had held fast to the aspirations of the Federation of South African Women in the 1950s and others because they expressed the spirit of democratic unity that is flowering in South Africa at present.

Women's Day on August 9th was celebrated in many centres. In Cape Town the chairwoman of the United Women's Organisation, Mama Zihlangu, a veteran of the campaigns of the 1950s, sent this message: 'To the women of South Africa, if we unite we will be able to create a new South Africa.' In Johannesburg Rita Ndzanga of the General and Allied Workers Union pointed out: 'It is basically good business to discriminate against women. It is highly profitable. By using women as cheap labour the bosses have a stick to threaten the men with.'

I

The only way to fight back was for women to take their rightful place in a united front against apartheid, and to demand a share of the country's wealth. A meeting at the University of the Witwatersrand heard a speech from Helen Joseph, a leader of the 1956 demonstration to the Union Buildings, but as she may not be quoted in South Africa no report of her speech has been published. At the same meeting Ella Ramgobin, a grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi, said: 'Exploited women must join hands with men for liberation.' She urged women to reject the new constitutional proposals aimed at dividing people along racial and urban-



rural lines, and stressed that women needed to work with other democratic organisations and must not isolate their struggle from the broader political struggle.

The extent to which this is the case in South Africa was demonstrated the following week when 12,000 people gathered at a meeting at Mitchell's Plain in Cape Town for the inaugural rally of the United Democratic Front (UDF). The UDF has 400 affiliated bodies: community groups, women's organisations, student bodies, trade unions, sports groups. They have come together to oppose the government's present strategy of changing the constitution to allow Indian and Coloured political representation through the structures of the President's Council, and of further discriminating against Africans through a series of laws that will deprive them of all citizenship rights outside the bantustans. The UDF rally elected Mrs. Albertina Sisulu, at present in detention facing charges under the Suppression of Communism Act, as one of its three presidents. The patrons of the organisation include Nelson Mandela, all prisoners serving life sentences under the security laws and Mrs. Martha Mahlangu, mother of Solomon Mahlangu, executed for his participation in the liberation struggle, and Helen Joseph, who was described at the meeting, as a mother of the liberation struggle. The meeting adopted a declaration which begins: 'Freedom-loving people of South Africa say with one voice to the whole world that we cherish the vision of a united democratic South Africa based on the will of the people, and will strive for the unity of all our people through united action against the evils of apartheid and economic and all other forms of exploitation'. The declaration goes on to set out the ideals of the UDF: a true democracy in a single non-racial, unfragmented South Africa, and an end to oppression and exploitation. A tumultuous roar from the

crowd greeted the speech  
of Allan Boesak who said:  
'Let us not build our  
struggle upon hatred and  
hopes for simple revenge.  
The nature and quality  
of our struggle cannot  
be determined by the  
colour of one's skin  
but rather by the quality  
of one's commitment to  
justice, peace and human  
liberation.'

Women,s

Day in

London

August 9th, ANC women's Day, was celebrated in London with a lively meeting of speeches, songs, poems and dramatic presentation. Joan Lestor, the former Labour Party Member of Parliament spoke For the Anti-Apartheid Movement and Joan Ruddock of CND expressed her solidarity. A tribute was read to Dora Tamana, a leader of the ANC women's League in the 1950s, who carried the struggle on into the 1980s when she helped to found the United women's Organisation in Cape Town. The meeting opened with Ruth Mompati, chief representative of the ANC in London, asking whether, on this women's Day, we found ourselves organised enough to meet our obligations to the people of South Africa. She went on to comment that if there was no struggle for the equality of women the yoke of oppression would be carried for twice as long. Her observation that 'We mustn't be women, we must be comrades' drew applause from the audience.

Eleanor Khanyile of the ANC spoke of the lives of women workers, pointing out how women must engage the enemy on all fronts in South Africa. The strategy of the ANC, she said, was that women must look at their problems as part of the major problem of apartheid. She called on all women throughout the world to unite to get rid of the ravages of imperialism.

Women

Leaders

Detained

At the beginning of August South African security police detained two women leaders. Albertina Sisulu, who recently had her banning order lifted, was detained and charged under the Suppression of Communism Act. She was prominent in the Transvaal region of the United Democratic Front. Her husband, Walter Sisulu, is serving a life sentence with Nelson Mandela for his "activities in the ANC. Amanda Kwadi, the chairwoman

of the Federation of South African women, has also been detained and charged with furthering the aims of the AND. when Mrs. Sisulu made a brief appearance in ,V court she gave the clenched fist salute to the gallery. Friends responded with salutes, smiles and waves. The AAM has written to the Foreign Office to express its concern at her detention. You can register your protest by joining the picket outside South Africa House. (See Diary) Bience Gawanas of SWAPD, celebrating Women's Day and her 27th birthday on the same day, spoke of the role women were playing in the liberation struggle. 'Gone are the days when we were giving birth to slaVES' she said. The role of women is changing and there are now women political leaders in SNAFU. 'No matter how bitter the struggle, we will continue' she told the audience, who inspired by her clarity, militance and fervour, gave her and SNAPU a standing ovation.

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