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SUMMER 1992
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u.s. ACTIVISTS DEMAND
DE KLERK MUST GO

Spurred on by the horror of the Boipatong massacre of June 17 1992, anti-apartheid activists across the United States answered a call to action by the American Committee on Africa. The De Klerk Must Go! Week of Action from July 10-18 was timed to coincide with the one year anniversary of President Bush's lifting of federal sanctions against South Africa. On July 10 1991, he repealed most US. trade and investment sanctions. Almost one year later, over fifty people were killed in Boipatong township by lnkatha warriors from a neighboring hostel. As the violence continued to escalate, between June 17 and July 10 1992, one hundred twenty more South Africans were killed. Anti-apartheid activists around the country knew that Boipatong was no accident. Rather, it was one example of the campaign of violence and terror the de Klerk government is running against the democratic movement in South Africa.

The De Klerk Must Go! Week of Action was launched in response to the call from progressive forces in South Africa, such as COSATU and the ANC. "Washington should stop coddling Pretoria and put effective pressures on de Klerk to clean up his security forces, accept Nelson Mandela's call for one-person, one-vote democracy, and step down in favor of a broad based interim government which leads to an elected constituent assembly," said ACOA Executive Director Jennifer Davis.

The Week's activities, in conjunction with the ongoing Stop Apartheid's Violence Campaign of ACOA's associate At the local government level, the Week of Action gained support from several of the nations Mayors. On the anniversary of the lifting of sanctions, July 10, the Mayors of Los Angeles, Newark, New Haven, Pittsburgh, Denver and New York City made statements reiterating their opposition to Bush's decision and affirming their commitment to keep sanctions until a interim government is in place and the ANC calls for the lifting of sanctions. Denver Mayor Wellington Webb said, "While de Klerk has quickly absolved himself and his government of culpability in the (Boipatong) matter, the enlightened world is unconvinced." Three weeks earlier, in consultation with ACOA staff, the US. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution supporting the continuation of sanc-

tions against apartheid South Africa. Over 200 activists in all fifty states were contacted by ACOA and urged to use the Week of Action to condemn de Klerk for apartheid's violence and Bush for siding with de Klerk against South Africa's democracy movement, including the ANC. In Philadelphia, Atlanta, Seattle, Chicago, Washington DC and points in between people mobilized to Stop Apartheid's Violence and demand that De Klerk Must Go!

The mother and wife of S'Khumbuzu Mbatha, South African Council of Churches field worker who was assassinated in February 1992, are pictured here (left and center) with Ruth Bhengu, (right) Civic

Association member of Imbali Township. They are standing in front of the house where Mbatha was

killed. Bullet holes are visible in the wall behind them.

organization The Africa Fund, protested de Klerk's role in the violence in cities across the country.

Push for Senate Resolution 301

RAN Reaches Thousands

When Religious Action Network

(RAN) Coordinator Aleah Bacquie

went to the National Black Episcopal Conference in Atlanta this June, everyone there learned about South Africa's political violence which is destroying thousands of lives and threatening the transition to democracy. The over 500 member body passed a resolution condemning apartheid's violence, resolved to work towards ending it and voted to build support for Senate Resolution 301 which calls on the South African Government to stop the violence.

RAN has been pursuing initiatives like this all over the country. In early June, RAN churches answered the call of Reverend Frank Chikane, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, for Two Weeks of Prayer to end the violence. RAN contacted over 1,000 US congregations about Rev. Chikane's request that they devote time in their sermons to South Africa, pray for the victims of the violence and wear black ribbons in honor of those 12,000 who have died. The World Council of Churches and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations endorsed RAN's call and urged their members to participate. Response was overwhelming, with many congregations responding enthusiastically.

Just after the Two Weeks of Prayer, RAN members recognized Soweto Day with Soweto Sabbath and Soweto Sunday services. This day is observed every year to mark the anniversary of student protests in Soweto on June 16 1976. Demonstrating against the use of Afrikaans as the only language permitted in schools, hundreds of students were fired upon and killed by South African Police. This tragedy marked a new era in anti-apartheid mass action protest.

Youth remain an essential part of the oumg epn'l

RAN Coordinator Aleah Bacquie speaking at the Soweto Day Rally, June 16, 1992, in New York City.

struggle both in South Africa and the United States. Responding to the needs of the young leadership, RAN is organizing a Youth Mission To South Africa. The trip is scheduled for April 1993. It will include visits to townships, churches and youth organizations. The goal of the trip is to acquaint participants with the reality of life in South Africa and the efforts their young counterparts are involved in to help end apartheid. The trip is open to anyone between the ages of 18-25 and applications are due September 1. All applicants are required to submit an essay entitled "Why Apartheid

Must Be Destroyed, Not Reformed."

RAN encourages youth who are interested to talk with their pastor, rabbi or imam about sponsoring them on the trip. More information is available from RAN Coordinator Aleah Bacquie, 198 Broadway, New York, NY 10038, or call (212)962-1210.

Is Your Senator

A Co-Sponsor?

Activists nationwide are supporting an initiative to win passage of Senate Resolution 301 which condemns apartheid's violence, calls upon the South African Government to take immediate steps to end it, and directs President Bush to investigate the nature of the violence and its impact on South Africa's transition to democracy.

SR 301 was introduced in May by Senator Paul Simon of Illinois with three original co-sponsors: Senators Kennedy (MA), Cranston (CA), and Pell (RI). Hard work and intensive lobbying by local activists has won support from over 25% of the Senate. It will come to a floor vote in September, so it's not too late to get your Senators to sign on to SR301. At press time the additional co-sponsors include:

CA: Cranston

CT: Dodd

GA: Nunn

IL: Simon

KS: Kassebaum

MA: Kerry&Kennedy

MD: Mikulski

MI: Levin & Riegle

MN: Wellstone

MO: Danforth

NB: Kerrey

ND: Burdick & Conrad

NJ: Bradley

NY: Moynihan

OH: Metzenbaum

OK: Boren

OR: Hatfield

PA: Wofford

RI: Pell

TN: Gore

VT: Jeffords

WA: Adams

Contact ACOA for a full list of co-sponsors, for copies of SR301, or for information on lobby efforts.

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