

DON'T LET THEM DIE!



Over two hundred detainees are now on hunger strike in South Africa. Seven detainees at Diepkloof Prison near Soweto began their hunger strike on 23 January 1989 and have since been joined by many others. At least 15 have been hospitalised and the prison authorities have now resorted to forcibly drip feeding those who have been refusing food the longest.

SUPPORT THE SOUTH AFRICAN HUNGER STRIKERS

This hunger strike is the most significant of its kind ever to occur in South Africa and in its size and co-ordination we can see reflected the strength of mass democratic opposition to the State of Emergency, now in its third year, and to detention without trial. In support of the detainees at least 42 lawyers representing the fasting prisoners announced a solidarity fast for 48 hours in sympathy with the detainees. But the Pretoria regime, afraid of this protest's immense potential, has banned solidarity action. In defiance of the regime however Allan Boesak, President of the World Council of Reformed Churches, has also announced his intention of fasting indefinitely.

In a statement the strikers declared:
"We the detainees at Johannesburg prison have decided to embark on a hunger strike to protest at our unjustified prolonged detention without trial and to demand our immediate unconditional release from detention."

Many of these detainees are now approaching one thousand days in detention. They have been neither charged with any offence nor brought to trial. They have sent numerous memoranda and letters to the Ministers of Law and Order and Justice and to the State President demanding they be released and stating why they believe that their continued detention is unjust.

Their continued incarceration in the face of these appeals has led many of those detained to the conclusion that the only way they will get out of prison is to deploy the use of the drastic weapon of a hunger strike: denying themselves food, even if this means jeopardising their health, even their lives.

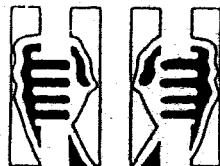
In response SATIS calls for;

- 1) the immediate and unconditional release of all detainees held by the apartheid regime.
- 2) the lifting of the State of Emergency.

SOLIDARITY NOW!

SATIS supporters are asked to act in solidarity with the hunger strikers and all detainees by writing to:

A)
The State President,
Union Buildings,
PRETORIA 0001,
South Africa.



B)
Rt. Hon. Lynda Chalker,
Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
London, SW1A 2AH.

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I/we enclose £..... (£..... donation) and £5 subscription to SATIS Action

Please return to SATIS c/o Anti-Apartheid Movement, 13 Mandela Street, London NW1 0DW. Price 10p