Steve Biko, the prominent South African political activist, died in police custody on September 12, 1977. His fate was similar to that of 50 other political detainees who have been tortured to death or died in detention in South Africa. His crime was to fight apartheid. Steve Biko is one of the thousands of victims of the racist system in South Africa where all opposition is brutally crushed - thousands are imprisoned, banned, detained or restricted for their refusal to accept the cruel system of apartheid which has been branded by the United Nations as a crime against humanity.

Steve Biko's death and the attempted "cover-up" demonstrated to the world that there is no justice in South Africa. And the international outcry which followed his death demonstrated that despite their protestations to the contrary the apartheid rulers have to take into account public opinion in those countries which persist in collaborating with South Africa.

This is why we in Britain especially must remember Steve Biko and all those who died in detention in South Africa, and intensify our efforts to:

* campaign to stop deaths in detention in South Africa
* campaign to stop police torture in South Africa
* campaign to free all political prisoners and detainees in South Africa

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