

Lawyers against apartheid

public meeting South africa how close is freedom?

Thursday II April 1991 7.30pm

venue Morrison Hall, Atkin Building, Grays Inn, London WCI



speakers Albie Sachs (invited) John MacDonald, QC, Justin Hardcastle African National Congress

Lawyers against apartheid. PO box 353, London wcir 5NB



Violence and repression in South Africa – the obstacles to negotiations

In December 1989 the United Nations General Assembly adopted, by consensus, the United Nations Declaration on South Africa. The Declaration expressed the belief of the entire international community that "it is essential that the necessary climate be created for negotiations". It set out a number of minimum steps to be taken by the South African government which would "help create the necessary climate in which free political discussion can take place".

On 1st February, 1991 President de Klerk announced a number of significant moves away from apartheid. However, he remained notably silent on the question of removing the obstacles to negotiations. Although he announced the repeal of key apartheid laws, there was no mention of the battery of repressive legislation. Thus more than a year after the adoption of the UN Declaration, most of the obstacles to negotiations remain in place.

Thousands of political prisoners and detainees still languish in apatheid's jails; tens of thousands of political exiles cannot return home for fear of being prosecuted for opposing apartheid; repressive laws make free political activity impossible especially the notorious Internal Security Act. Futhermore, while de Klerk has been talking peace, his regime has orchestrated the appalling violence which has caused over 3,000 deaths in the past year.

THE REPRESSION AND VIOLENCE IS ENDANGERING THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE, FREEDOM AND AN END TO APARTHEID!

Come to the Public Meeting on 11th April and find out - how close is freedom in South Africa?

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