

# FREE NAMIBIA NOW!

## NAMIBIA WEEK OF ACTION

**A**partheid in South Africa is well known – and universally condemned. But apartheid next door, in Namibia, is little known. The Namibian people's suffering under illegal occupation by the Pretoria regime receives scant attention. The 1988 Namibia Week of Action aims to overcome this neglect and to mobilise public opinion in support of the Namibian people's struggle for independence.

## NAMIBIA — AFRICA'S LAST COLONY

**N**amibia, a big country with a small population (1.5m), is situated in south-western Africa. Colonised for over 100 years, Namibia was first invaded by Germany which carried out a murderous campaign against the indigenous population. Then during the First World War South Africa invaded on Britain's behalf. That occupation continues to this very day with the policies of apartheid being exported to Namibia, in many cases being tried and tested first on the people of Namibia.

## 10 YEARS SINCE AGREEMENT ON INDEPENDENCE

**O**n 27 October (hence the timing of the International Week of Action) the United Nations General Assembly finally declared South Africa's occupation illegal after years of manoeuvring in which South Africa refused to move. In September 1978 the UN Security Council, in Resolution 435, adopted a plan for Namibian independence including UN-supervised elections, which even South Africa finally accepted. Despite this, **South Africa has refused to get out of Namibia**; it has poured over 100,000 troops into the country to maintain its occupation and has forced one in ten Namibians into exile.

## THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

**S**WAPO of Namibia, the national liberation movement founded in 1960, unites and leads the overwhelming majority of Namibian people in the struggle for independence. It is formally recognised in this role by the United Nations. When all else failed, SWAPO embarked on an armed struggle in 1966. The past year has witnessed a great upsurge of struggle: sustained school boycotts; political strikes and stoppages led by the growing trade union movement; and other forms of mass political opposition.



**Week of Action '88**  
17 Oct to 3 Nov '88

**Seminar on Repression**  
Saturday 29 Oct '88

**Lobby of Parliament**  
Wednesday 7 Dec '88

## WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED!

**N**amibia's freedom is coming closer: South Africa is now forced to negotiate with Angola and Cuba whose forces, invited by Angola's government, help defend its independence from Pretoria and its allies. Conditions for effectively implementing UN Resolution 435, and hence Namibian independence at last, have seldom been better. But South Africa, still entrenched, shows familiar signs of stalling yet again.

**M**uch more pressure is needed to force Pretoria to withdraw. Both's allies hold the key — especially the Thatcher government. Britain has vetoed UN sanctions over Namibia. British companies have a massive stake in plundering Namibia's economy. The British government must not be allowed to give South Africa any encouragement to yet again defy the international community. *Now more than ever is the time to get involved!*

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Support the Week of Action locally — 27 October to 3 November**  
Get involved in events organised in your area by the local anti-apartheid group.
- **Attend the Seminar on 'Children, Apartheid and Repression in Namibia'**. A major event in London on Saturday 29 October: speakers from inside Namibia who work with children in the fields of health, law and education; and young people from Namibia who will bear witness to the horrors of apartheid rule.
- **Support the national Lobby of Parliament — December 7**. Lobbying MPs at this time is vital to ensure Namibian independence assumes a much higher profile. All MPs must be made aware of their responsibility to help ensure the current negotiations are successful. Build for the Lobby during the Week of Action: raise it in your union, church, community group etc.
- **Help publicise and popularise the situation in Namibia**  
Order posters, leaflets and exhibitions to display in your workplace, school etc.
- **Get involved in campaigning that will help free Namibia**. Don't buy Namibian or South African goods; boycott Shell; raise funds for SWAPO refugee camps and schools; disinvest from companies operating in Namibia; and join the Anti-Apartheid Movement!
- Find out more from your local AA group contact below or the AAM HQ.

## LOCAL INFORMATION/CONTACT:

