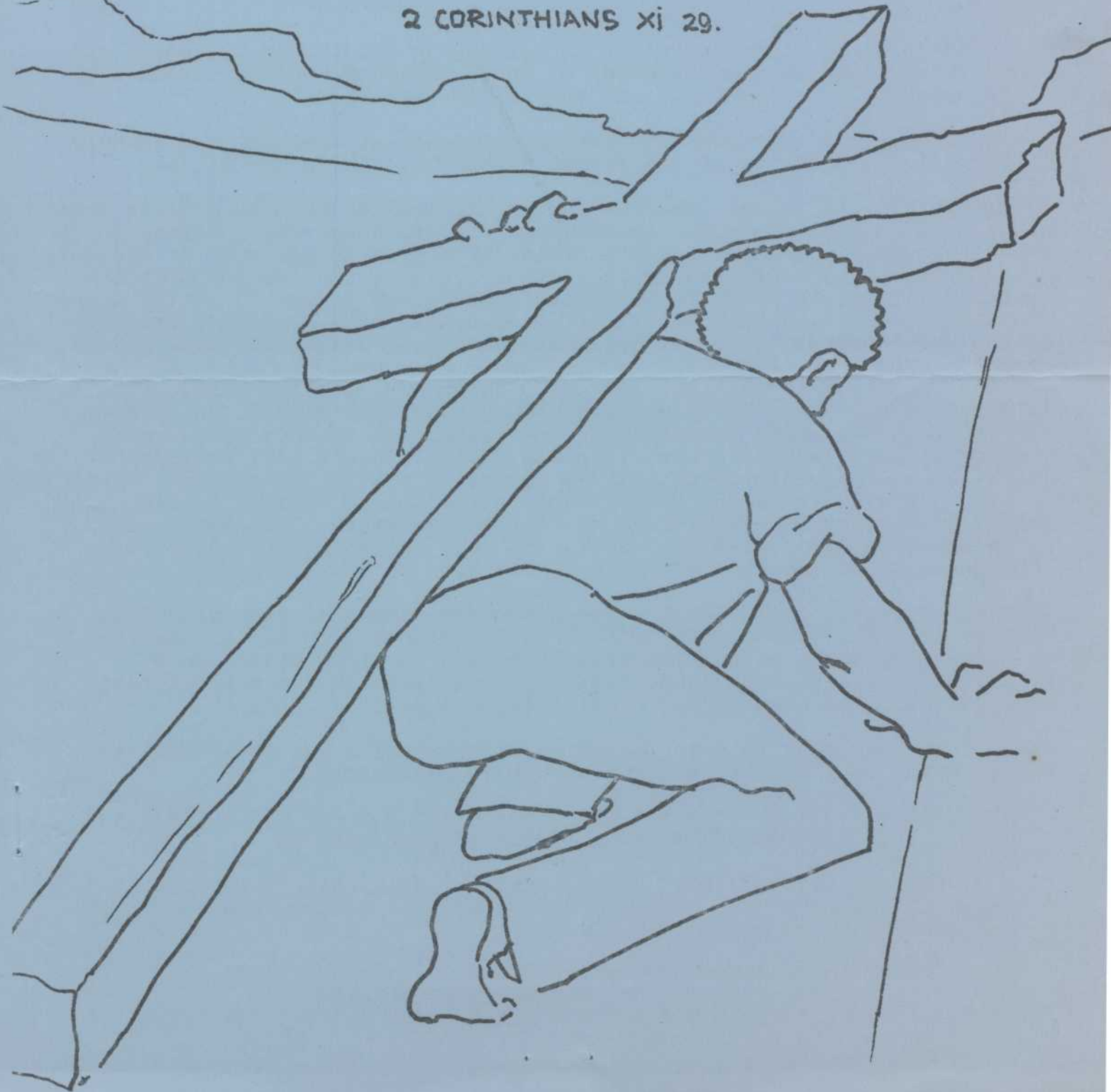


EASTER 1975

WHO IS WEAK,  
AND I AM NOT WEAK?

WHO IS OFFENDED,  
AND I BURN NOT?

2 CORINTHIANS XI 29.



EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN  
for  
SOUTH AFRICA

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*—For A Free Southern Africa—*

HOLY WEEK

1975

The South African regime persists in holding in prison, in detention and under banning orders many hundreds of South Africans solely because of their opposition to apartheid and the police state.

South Africa also imprisons and detains citizens of Namibia, the country it occupies in defiance of the lawful authority, the United Nations.

Prime Minister Balthazar Johannes Vorster is working hard to promote what he chooses to call 'detente' in Southern Africa, desperately trying to re-create a buffer zone around South Africa's borders in the wake of the collapse of Portugal's African empire. He travels to independent African countries, tries to pressure Ian Smith's Rhodesian regime to settle with Zimbabwe's black majority and his officials have made extensive promises at the UN about relaxation of apartheid and the granting of civil rights.

But the police state tightens its grip, facing unremitting unrest from gold miners and other black workers, black political groups, university students, in the white community. The assault on centers of learning continues; multi-ethnic places like the Federal Theological Seminary at Alice and the Augustineum College in Namibia are being dismantled. More trials in South Africa and Namibia are forthcoming. Vorster's ally, Ian Smith, is adamant in exercising, as someone commented, "his death wish", by re-imprisoning liberation leader, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, thus consigning a settlement conference on Zimbabwe to the scrap heap.

Vorster's release on 10 March - for a month's time - of the dying Bram Fischer into the care of his brother in Bloemfontein is but a maneuver to relieve Pretoria of considerable local and foreign outcry and to avoid the political embarrassment of a prison-death on a cancer-riddled man. Nothing has changed for other prisoners of conscience.

We call on Americans to join the world-wide campaign for their release. Please write ECSA for information on how to take part.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* WASHINGTON MARCH ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY \*  
\*  
\* A church coalition in the nation's capital will stage a protest \*  
\* march on the embassies of South Africa and the Soviet Union on \*  
\* EASTER SUNDAY, 30 MARCH 1975 \*  
\*  
\* For further information: The Rev. John Steinbruck \*  
\* PHONE: (202) 667-1377 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*



## ANOTHER TERRORISM TRIAL

Twelve young South Africans will soon be brought to trial under terms of the Terrorism Act.

Most of them have been held incommunicado in detention since 25 September 1974 when several dozen men and women were arrested at a large peaceful demonstration in Durban which celebrated FRELIMO and the changing government in neighboring Mozambique.

The trial - to be held in Pretoria Supreme Court - was set for 12 March but has been adjourned to a yet unspecified date. All those charged are members or active supporters of the South African Students Organization and the Black Peoples Convention. Both organizations are outstanding features of the Black Consciousness movement in South Africa and both have suffered heavily from police and other official harassment and from recurring arrests of leadership.

Ominous press reports quote the security police as stating that 26 of the others detained will appear as state witnesses - after having been in the hands of the security branch for up to six months. A Durban attorney, Mr. Shunmugam Chetty, has filed an affidavit that one of his clients has informed him of serious assaults on the prisoners.

The charge sheets allege the 12 are connected not only with SASO and BPC but with the Peoples Experimental Theatre, Theatre Council of Natal and the Student Representative Council of Turfloop tribal college, the latter long the site of African intellectual and anti-apartheid ferment. They are charged with conspiring to transform the state by unconstitutional, revolutionary and violent means, to condition African, Indian and Coloured population groups for violent revolution, to create and foster feelings of racial hatred, hostility and antipathy among blacks towards whites, with inducing, persuading and pressurizing blacks to totally reject the white man and his way of life.

Further charges allege the accused with making, producing, publishing or distributing subversive and anti-white utterances, writings, poems, plays and dramas. They also allegedly discouraged foreign investment in South Africa's economy and called on foreign investors to disengage.

The Pretoria Twelve are: Mr. Sathasivan Cooper, Mr. Justice Edmund Lindane Myeza, Mr. Mosiona Gerard Patrick Lekota, Dr. Maitsho Nchaube Aubrey Mokoape, Mr. Nkwenke Vincent Nkomo, Mr. Pandelani Jeremiah Nefolovhodwe, Mr. Gilbert Kaborane Sedibe, Mr. Rubin Hare, Mr. Strinivasa Rajoo Moodley, Mr. Sadecque Variava, Mr. Absolom Zitulele Cindi, and, Mr. Sulayman Ahmed Ismael.

There will be foreign observers at the trial, including a representative of the US embassy.

## IN NAMIBIA, ANOTHER TRIAL

Mr. David Meroro, the 58-year-old businessman and national chairman of SWAPO inside Namibia, is scheduled to be brought to trial in Windhoek. He was arrested in February 1974, held incommunicado for six months during which time he was subjected to torture. He is out on bail now. He is charged under the Suppression of Communism Act of South Africa - for "possession of eight copies of a South African Communist Party journal".





## Profile

# DOROTHY NYEMBE

15 years gaol  
for helping  
freedom fighters

Dorothy Nyembe has spent most of her adult life under some form of restriction - in court, banned, in prison - but within the limitations imposed on her she has given all her time and energy to the struggle for freedom in South Africa.

Born in 1930 in Natal, she joined the African National Congress in her early twenties and took part in the Defiance of Unjust Laws Campaign of 1952 during which she served two short terms of imprisonment. Four years later she led the Natal contingent of women to the great demonstration against passes outside Union Buildings in Pretoria where over 20,000 women participated. She was then Vice-Chairman of the ANC Women's League, Durban Branch. In December 1956, she was arrested together with 155 others, 18 of them women, and charged with treason. She spent most of 1957 attending court, the charge against her and 60 others being withdrawn on December 18.

In 1959, after the riots in Cato Manor, an African residential area near Durban, the Native Affairs Department of the City Council recommended the banishment of Dorothy Nyembe and other political leaders from Durban. This they could do under the Native (Urban Areas) Act. But the full City Council, by a majority of one, rejected the recommendation. The same year she was elected President of the Natal ANC Women's League at their conference in Pietermaritzburg at which 200 delegates attended.

In 1960 an Anti-Pass Women's Committee was formed in Durban. Dorothy was elected Chairman and played her part in opposing the extension of passes to African women. In 1962 she was elected Chairman of the Natal Rural Areas Committee at a conference held under extremely difficult conditions.

In spite of every attempt on the part of the South African police to prevent

this conference from taking place, 1500 delegates from all over the province were present.

### Women's Revolt

Dorothy played a leading role in what became known as the Natal Women's revolt early in 1963 when women in almost every rural area in Natal refused to fill cattle dipping tanks with water and instead destroyed the tanks.

The decision to refuse to fill dipping tanks was taken at the 1962 Conference. The women argued that they were compelled by the authorities to fill tanks in their areas without any pay and in most cases had to carry the water from water holes or rivers which were a distance away from the tanks.

During the campaign Dorothy was arrested again, charged with furthering the aims of the banned African National Congress, and sentenced to three years imprisonment. On her release, in 1966, she was banned for five years under the Suppression of Communism Act, restricted to Durban, prohibited from communicating with other banned persons, prohibited from certain types of employment and from attending any gatherings whatsoever, etc. Nevertheless, she carried on her work in whatever way she could.

In 1968 she was arrested, held in solitary confinement for many weeks, interrogated and eventually brought to court, with 10 African men, in January 1969. She was charged on five counts under the Suppression of Communism Act. The trial took place in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court under Justice Henning.

All but one of the accused were found guilty and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from five to 20 years. Dorothy was found guilty of only one charge - that of harbouring terrorists' - helping freedom fighters; nevertheless, the Judge sentenced her to 15 years.

SECHABA - official organ of the African National

Congress August - September 1974

*Remember  
those  
in prison  
as though  
in prison  
with them*

— Christian  
Institute

1 FEB. 1975



**BRAM  
FISCHER**



Abram (Bram) Fischer was born in April 1908, son of a Judge President of the Orange Free State, grandson of a Prime Minister of the Orange River Colony. He had a fine academic and sporting record, representing the Free State against the All Blacks at rugby when he was 19 and winning a Rhodes Scholarship to New College, Oxford. It was said that he would be Prime Minister or Chief Justice one day, whichever he chose.

After being a staunch Afrikaner Nationalist, Fischer became profoundly aware of the injustice in South African society. At Oxford he joined the Communist Party and, on his return to South Africa, became convinced that this was the only party to stand consistently for full political rights for all South Africans.

In Johannesburg, Fischer became a distinguished barrister and then Queen's Counsel. Despite his politics - about which he was quite open - he was widely respected and liked in the all-white legal profession. He was often elected to the Johannesburg Bar Council and was for some years its Chairman. His work ranged from representing the Anglo-American Corporation to advising the African National Congress, but he gave up the Corporation work when he chose rather to assist the African Mineworkers' Union at the time of their strike in 1946.

In 1950 the Communist Party was outlawed. It remained in existence, supporting the ANC and the trade union movement, and Bram Fischer remained on its committee. In 1956 the Treason Trial began. Fischer helped conduct the defence. After 4½ years, the accused were all acquitted.

In 1961, the year after Sharpeville, Nelson Mandela and others formed Umkhonto we Sizwe and embarked on a programme of sabotage. In 1964 Mandela and some of his colleagues were arrested. Fischer led the defence team at the Rivonia Trial that followed where, though the death penalty had been widely feared, the accused were sentenced to life imprisonment.

A month after the conclusion of the trial Fischer was himself arrested and charged with 12 others under the Suppression of Communism Act. Fischer was granted bail and permission to go to London to argue an international patents case. His client won the case and he returned to South Africa to stand trial. Then he disappeared, to go underground to continue the struggle. He was captured 10 months later, in November 1965 and convicted in 1966 of sabotage and communism. Bram Fischer was sentenced to life imprisonment, which he is serving in Pretoria Local Prison. Fischer's wife was killed in a car crash the day after the end of the Rivonia trial. His son died in 1971 - he was refused permission to attend the funeral.

**Daughter:**  
Mrs Ilse Wilson  
2 Westmeath Drive  
Parkview - Johannesburg

**NELSON  
MANDELA**



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is the son of a chief. He was born in Umtata, Transkei, in 1918. Of his childhood he said in court: "In my youth I listened to the leaders of my tribe telling stories of the old days. Amongst the tales they related to me were those of wars fought by our ancestors in defence of the fatherland . . . I hoped then that life might offer me the opportunity to serve my people and make my own humble contribution to their freedom struggle."

Nelson Mandela studied at Fort Hare University College and at the University of the Witwatersrand. He gained a degree in law in 1942. In 1952 he set up in practice as a solicitor, in partnership with Oliver Tambo.

In 1944 Mandela joined the African National Congress. A foundation member of the ANC Youth League, he was elected Transvaal President of the ANC and volunteer-in-chief of the Defiance Campaign in 1952. Following this campaign, he was banned from attending all gatherings, from membership of the ANC, and from leaving Johannesburg.

From 1956 to 1961, Mandela sat as an accused in the Treason Trial. Together with the other accused he was found not guilty and discharged, but his legal practice was ruined.

In 1960, after Sharpeville, the ANC was outlawed; Mandela was detained during the State of Emergency. At the All-In African Conference in Pietermaritzburg, 1961, he was elected leader of the National Action Council. In this capacity he went underground to organise a general strike, the "Stay at Home", on 31 May 1961.

In 1962 Mandela toured Africa and Europe to win support for the African cause, and afterwards toured South Africa to report back on his tour. During this period, eluding all the efforts of the police to find him, he became internationally known as "The Black Pimpernel". However, in August 1962 the police caught up with him; he was charged with inciting a general strike and with leaving South Africa without a valid passport. He was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment.

From prison, he was again brought to court in 1964, and became the No. 1 accused in the Rivonia Trial, charged with sabotage. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, which he is serving on Robben Island. Formerly a keen and successful boxer and athlete, Nelson Mandela is married, which five children. His wife is banned and has been arrested on several occasions.

**Wife:**  
Mrs Winnie Mandela  
8115 Orlando West  
Johannesburg

**SECHABA** - official organ  
of the African  
National Congress  
Oct - Nov - Dec  
1974



# Decision on Fischer attacked

By DENIS BECKETT

THE MINISTER of Justice's reasons for refusing to release Bram Fischer from jail have been branded as "ludicrously illogical" by Fischer's son-in-law.

Dr Tim Wilson, husband of Fischer's daughter Ilse, has replied in detail to each of the points raised by the Minister, Mr Jimmy Kruger, in defence of his decision.

Dr Wilson also revealed that Fischer is now a "living skeleton" weighing only 42 kilograms — less than two-thirds of his weight in his prime — has gone suddenly and almost completely bald and is unable to get himself to a toilet without assistance.

At the same time legal experts have queried whether Mr Kruger may have contravened the Commissions Act in commenting on representations made by Fischer to a statutory commission of inquiry.

In his statement announcing his decision not to free Fischer, Mr Kruger mentioned nine factors which had influenced him. These were:

● That Fischer's health had improved. Dr Wilson's reply: "Bram is dying. He is no longer in a semi-coma, and to that extent his condition has improved. But this is only relative. He cannot walk at all without an aid. With a walking-trolley he can only shuffle short distances within the ward. He cannot even put himself to bed unaided. He vomits frequently and at length. He has undiscovered primary cancer and secondary cancer

in the brain and hip. In these circumstances, the medical profession doesn't even talk in terms of recovery."

● That Fischer was two months ago "cherishing high ambitions". Dr Wilson's reply: "Two months ago Bram could scarcely talk. If he has any ambition but to spend a little time with the surviving members of his family before he dies, it's new to me. I challenge the Minister to reveal what this ambition is."

● That Fischer had not changed his standpoint. Dr Wilson's reply: "Maybe he hasn't. I don't know. But I know that whether he is dead or in prison or in peace at home, he is quite unable to take part in any political activity. In any case there are dozens of ways in which the

Minister could stop him from talking to people if he was at home.

● That Fischer had been awarded a Lenin prize. Dr Wilson's reply: "I don't know why he presents this now. He says 'it has come to my notice . . . ' as if it was something new. In fact Bram got the prize shortly after he went to prison, and it was publicised at the time."

● That Fischer had participated in presenting a petition to the Prisons Reform Commission. Dr Wilson's reply: "This is ludicrous. The Commission is an official Government body. Representations were invited, in the Government Gazette. Why shouldn't Bram respond? It was done entirely legally and above-board, through the Prisons Department itself."

● That the petition was framed in collaboration with a group of "comrades"—all of them also political prisoners. Dr Wilson's reply: "Who else does the Minister expect him to work with? The political prisoners are kept together and don't see anyone else. Isn't it natural that people who are together

by force of circumstance should combine in writing a document which has a direct bearing on their joint situation? And why does the Minister use an unfair and emotively loaded word like 'comrades'?"

● That Fischer's children had brought him banned literature, showing that they did not respect regulations. Dr Wilson's reply: "This obviously refers to the Financial Mail and the Financial Gazette. We brought these for the very reason that they were admitted. We didn't try to sneak them in."

"We brought them openly, and gave them to the prison authorities, only to find they had suddenly been disallowed — nobody had told us of this."

● That if Fischer were released he would "inevitably have to go to Johannesburg, a city with the greatest percentage of subversives." Dr Wilson's reply: "The Minister makes Johannesburg sound as if it is crawling with revolutionary plots. He is quite capable of keeping Bram incommunicado at home, even if it was."

● That the representations to the Prisons Reform Commission showed "antagonism to the existing system and to the maintenance of law and order." Dr Wilson's reply: "It seems to me quite likely that after nine years in prison anyone would be 'antagonistic', even if the conditions of imprisonment were ideal. I can't believe that Bram, as a lawyer, would waste his time on a statement for a commission investigating prisons reform by going into a political diatribe. I challenge the Minister to make the document public."

RAND DAILY MAIL

Johannesburg

January 28, 1975

Lawyers in Johannesburg yesterday questioned the legality of Mr Kruger's references to the Prisons Reform Commission representations. They pointed out that once a Commission has been appointed it operates under the same terms as a court of law — matters which it is considering are sub judice and comment which may influence the findings of the Commission is prohibited.

They also said it was surprising that Mr Kruger, who although he appointed the Prisons Reform Commission was not a member of it, should be in possession of the representations before the commission had reported.

Mr Kruger last night refused to comment on Dr Wilson's statements. But he said repeatedly that he had not contravened any law and would take any suggestion that he had "in a very serious light."

Mrs Helen Suzman, Progressive MP for Houghton, last night described the Minister's explanations for his decision as "utterly specious".

"Bram Fischer in his present desperately ill state cannot possibly be a security risk irrespective of his political views."

"Why, one wonders, are we spending all those millions of rands on the Security Police if they can't cope with the activities of one bedridden man? The Minister's refusal to allow Bram Fischer to spend his last days with his family as a free man absolutely appalls me."

Fischer's family has still not heard officially from Mr Kruger of his decision.

(Report by Denis Beckett, 171 Main Street, Johannesburg.)



## THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE

The Christian Institute of Southern Africa has since its formation 15 years ago been a forceful element in that region, true to its aim "to serve the Church of Christ in every possible way".

CI has made studies, held conferences, issued publications and developed into one of the most prominent of South African voices disputing the doctrine of apartheid and its everyday practice and the growing might of the police state - to the extent that it now stands on the verge of being declared an 'affected organization' and thus effectively cut off from overseas support and subject to constant harassment.

In December 1974, six leading CI members were stripped of their passports in a series of police raids. CI director Dr. Beyers Naude - who has been a target of the Pretoria regime for many years (as an Afrikaner he suffers from a special contempt of the Boer oligarchy) - had just returned from the USA where he had received an honorary degree - LLD - in Chicago and had been given the Reinhold Niebuhr award for services to peace, justice and human rights.

It was Beyers Naude who last year prophesied the outermost reach of the Affected Organizations Act - "There should be no doubt whatsoever in the minds of church leaders that no church will ultimately escape".

The select parliamentary Le Grange (formerly the Schlegbusch) Commission has been gunning for the Christian Institute for three years and is due to make a formal report on CI shortly. On 1 February 1975, CI's Board of Management spoke to membership and the public: "The Christian Institute is founded on the faith that God's saving will embraces the corporate as well as the individual lives of persons. The Board appeals to all members of the Institute to remain steadfast in the face of whatever unproven allegations may be made against the Christian Institute and its staff." The Le Grange Commission takes evidence in secret; the accused cannot defend themselves or cross-examine accusers.

"In relation to the struggle for liberation," the board reaffirmed a December statement of "its concern and love for all the people of South Africa; its identification with the struggle for Christian liberation; its belief that the apartheid system in South Africa, being maintained by force, provokes revolutionary violence and cannot survive the tide of history. Steadfastly adhering to its policy of non-violence in working for radical social change, the Institute seeks to identify itself with the oppressed."

"Remember those in prison as though in prison with them"

The CI statement addressed the detentions of Black Consciousness leaders ..... "when people are arrested and detained under laws which cut them off from the due process of law as understood in the tradition of Christian civilization, Christians have an obligation:

- to keep alive in the consciousness of church and society the remembrance of those who have been silenced and the moral demand that these detainees be charged or released, and
- to render assistance in consultation with the churches and other concerned bodies to the families who are suffering as a result of these detentions."

IN MEMORY OF THE  
MARTYRS OF SHARPEVILLE  
21 MARCH 1960

SHOT DEAD - 69 - 18 of them women & children  
WOUNDED - 180 50 of them women & children

THE WORLD DOES NOT FORGET THEM  
-AND ALL THOSE KILLED, TORTURED,  
DETAINED, IMPRISONED, STARVED, EXILED,  
BANNED, BANISHED

*FOR FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA*

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