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Namibians!

End Conscription Campaign

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NAMIBIANS!

We are fasting and praying
for you
from Monday the 3rd of August
to
Wednesday the 26th of August,
International Namibia Day



APARTHEID OUT — SADF OUT

CHURCHES

End Conscription Campaign Churches Group

Why prayer and fasting ?

Prayer and fasting stands in a rich Biblical and religious tradition. It has been shown to be a powerful spiritual and non-violent weapon. Down the ages people have used it to pursue personal holiness and truth, to strengthen their commitment to justice and to appeal to God to bring about social change. It has been used both privately and publicly. It recognises no artificial boundaries between 'spiritual' and 'political'. It is concerned with all of life.

Why prayer and fasting for the SADF to leave Namibia ?

Because ...

- South Africa is illegally occupying Namibia. The International Court of Justice handed down this judgement in 1971.
- South Africa's main instrument of illegal occupation is the SADF.
- Most Namibians do not want the SADF in Namibia and see its role as obstructing the road to peace.
- Namibian churches have repeatedly called for the withdrawal of the SADF and the implementation of UN Resolution 435.
- Our boys are being sent to kill and sometimes die in a foreign country miles from home in a war that even the SADF Generals have admitted to be unwinnable.
- More than 10 000 people, most of them Namibian citizens, have died unnecessarily in Namibia's rightful quest for independence from South Africa.
- The war of domination which the SADF is waging not only has an unacceptable human toll: it is costing us the South African taxpayers and our economy over R 2 million per day.

There is a peaceful solution to this futile war, just waiting to be implemented. This is through UN Resolution 435, accepted in 1978 by SWAPO, South Africa and her Western allies.

What the churches say

The SADF is "not fighting SWAPO terrorists, they are fighting the people of Namibia and everybody must be aware of this fact". Mr Willy Amutenya, Chairperson, Catholic J&R Commission, Namibia. (*The Namibian*, 27/3/87)

"The curfew operations in the north, the undoubted intimidation, destruction of property, restriction of movement, spread of distrust through informers, the cases of abduction, torture and beating, the total massive armed presence of the SADF, cause the community to live in a state of perpetual fear and suspicion.

SADF GO HOME!

"We daily observe how our people are killed, in most evil ways, run down by Casspirs while in their homes, and that by those who claim to be our protectors. The dead are paraded through the streets and market places, some are kept unburied, or roasted to be eaten by dogs ... yet there are those who say 'hats off to our men on the border.'

"If you maintain that your presence here followed on invitation by the people of this land, then you must understand that the people of this land are now demanding your withdrawal." Mr Peter Kalangula, Chairman, Ovambo Administration (*The Namibian*, 17/4/87)

The people fear the army and Keovoet more than they fear SWAPO". They called for the "withdrawal of all military presence in Namibia as soon as possible". CPSA Bishops (*Objector*, April 1984).

In 1985 the Conference of the Methodist Church of South Africa, noted "that our Christian sisters and Brothers in Namibia have expressed themselves clearly in favour of an end to South Africa's presence in Namibia", and resolved "to call for the speedy withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia, and the immediate implementation of UN Resolution 435."

Namibian experiences of the SADF

The SADF claims that their bases are erected near schools to protect the children "against attacks by SWAPO terrorists". Yet the parents' committee of the Ponthofi Secondary School "unanimously voted for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of security forces from the area." (*The Namibian*, 19/6/87)

"Two farmers from Okankuzi in northern Namibia this week claimed that members of the SADF threatened to kill them and then wantonly shot and killed their cattle, while their Mahangu fields were destroyed by Buffel trucks." (*The Namibian*, 19/6/87)

"The Ondangwa Magistrates Court fined a member of the SADF R 800 ... The soldier shot and seriously injured a young girl of 14, for allegedly refusing to have sexual intercourse with him ... She has had to undergo three operations since the shooting." (*The Namibian*, 5/6/87)

Responding to a report with photographic proof of Security Forces parading corpses on a Casspir, "Bishop James Kauluma, head of the Anglican diocese of Namibia, said that he had frequently received reports of similar incidents in the past." He said the security forces had "gone past the point of self-respect and dignity". (*The Namibian*, 16/1/87)

Testimony of a Namibian civilian

Giving evidence at the trial of conscientious objector Philip Wilkinson in May 1987, Namibian Paul Impubu stated that

- he began to fear for his life after the SADF established a camp near his school and started placing "devices" around it.
- consequently he and 15 fellow pupils fled Namibia to Angola.
- while at a refugee camp 60km inside Angola the SADF launched a 30 minute air bombing attack followed by a troop ground attack. 100 civilians lost their lives.
- he was captured and detained without trial for six years in Mariental Camp in southern Namibia.
- after his release SADF soldiers drove over the fence around his family home in Ovamboland.

- **TO THE GOVERNMENT** we say, show your sincerity in wanting a just peace in Namibia by lifting the curfew, withdrawing the occupying SADF forces and moving towards a swift implementation of UN Resolution 435. This is the wish of the majority of Namibians, so why are we waiting ?
- **TO NAMIBIANS** we say, we share your pain and sorrow and commit ourselves to continuing to pray, fast and work until the SADF is withdrawn from your country and until your inalienable right to be free has become a reality.

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