

***JUNE 26 —***  
***SOUTH AFRICA***  
***FREEDOM DAY***

**AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
of SOUTH AFRICA**

## A P P E A L

*This year, June 26 finds the forces of progress meeting the forces of White racist reaction in armed struggle. In the hills and valleys of Zimbabwe, in the mountain fastnesses and in the villages and farms, the ANC—ZAPU guerrilla units are fighting the White racist troops.*

*The African National Congress of South Africa has decided to observe a Week of Solidarity with the Armed Struggle in Zimbabwe and South Africa. The Week will begin on Sunday June 23 and end on Saturday June 29.*

*We appeal to all the people of the World who abhor apartheid and racial discrimination to express their solidarity with our struggling people. We address this Appeal to all Governments, Anti-Apartheid Committees, Afro-Asian Solidarity Committees, to social, cultural and working-class organisations and to public institutions in every land and at every level to take whatever action they can against apartheid.*

*Your support will help us to liberate our country from the scourge of racism; to free our people from the miserable life of race oppression which is their lot today. Support our armed struggle to smash White racism in South Africa and, indeed in the whole of Southern Africa.*

## **June 26 — A Call to Battle**

June 26 is an historical landmark and a beacon in the liberation struggle in South Africa. It is a day on which the oppressed and struggling masses of our people remember their heroes such as Shaka, Dingaan, Moshoeshoe, Sekhukhune, Hintsa, Makana who gave valiant leadership in the fight against the White invaders. In our time these great men of the past have been joined by Vuyisile Mini, Wilson Khayingo, Zinakile Mkaba, Washington Bongco, Babla Saloojee, Alpheus Madiba and many other patriots who have lost their lives in South African jails.

June 26 is widely known as South Africa Freedom Day because some of the great campaigns in the fight against apartheid were launched on this day in South Africa. June 26 began in 1950 as a symbol of national resistance to White domination. 18 Africans were shot dead by the fascist police on the Witwatersrand on May 1st, 1950. They were participating in a peaceful May Day Strike called by revolutionary organisations including the African National Congress.

The African National Congress and its ally the South African Indian Congress took positive action. The anger and militance of the oppressed people who were shocked at these inhuman massacres had to be mobilised. The same year, on June 26 a National Stoppage of Work was organised. It was a day to mourn the victims who had

fallen in the struggle for Freedom ; it was a day of Rededication to the goals and ideals of national unity in the fight for national emancipation.

June 26, 1950, was also a day of active struggle. On that day the ANC initiated mass demonstrations, general strikes, etc. as the first phase of its Programme of Action which was adopted at a National Conference in 1949.

June 26 is a day of mourning, a Day of National Rededication, and a Day of Struggle for Freedom in South Africa. It is also a Day of Solidarity with the oppressed South African people. It is a Day of Protest.

### **International Support**

In solidarity with the oppressed and struggling masses of the people of South Africa, many international organisations have called for the observance of June 26. In 1960 the 2nd All African Peoples Conference adopted June 26 as a day of solidarity with the struggle for Freedom in South Africa. The Organisation for African Unity has given its blessing that June 26 should be marked as a day on which Africa rededicates herself to the cause of the achievement of national liberation and the final liquidation of colonialism in South Africa. The workers of free and independent Africa through their co-ordinating centre—the All-Africa Trade Union Federation—have pledged support for the workers of South Africa and observe June 26 as a Day of Solidarity with them. The worldwide Anti-Apartheid Movement also recognises June 26 as a Day of Solidarity with the people fighting apartheid. The World Campaign for the Release of Political Prisoners calls for the marking of June 26 as a day on which the pro-

gressive forces in the world must demand the release of all South African political prisoners including Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba, Caleb Mayekiso, Ahmed Kathrada, Bram Fischer, Mangaliso Sobukwe, Motsoaledi, Mkwazi, Mlangeni, Goldberg and thousands of others.

The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation also adopted June 26 as a day to be observed in support of the South African liberation struggle. The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), the Women's International Democratic Federation (W.I.D.F.), the World Federation of Democratic Youth (W.F.D.Y.), the Tricontinental Organisation of Solidarity of Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America (OSPAAAL) and the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) have all adopted June 26 as a day of support and solidarity with the struggling masses of South Africa.

There are numerous other social, political, cultural and regional organisations throughout the world that have demonstrated their abhorrence of apartheid, colonial oppression and exploitation by calling upon their supporters to observe June 26. Some of them are the Canadian Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Indian Afro-Asian Solidarity Association, the South Africa Protest Committee of Australia, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of the Peoples Republic of China, the Geneva Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Afro-Asian Comrades of Japan, the German Democratic Republic Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, the USSR Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, the Cylonese Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee and many other organisations. June 26 deserves this massive world

support. On this day all progressive forces who identify themselves with the national liberation movement in South Africa remember the millions of oppressed people in South Africa who are robbed of their lives in jails and farms, in factories, on the roads, railways and harbours ; the large numbers who meet their death suddenly when the callous police open fire on mass demonstrations. They remember the children orphaned through the death, or exile, or imprisonment of their parents—children sentenced to a life of destitution and want, children heartlessly deprived of youthful pleasures.

### **Some Battles**

The oppressed African people in South Africa in the course of their long and bitter struggle for freedom and national independence developed and adopted their own symbols of nationhood. This they did to demonstrate their rejection of White domination and the symbols of state power exclusively wielded by White racists. The attributes of our people's nationhood are their NATIONAL FLAG ; their own NATIONAL ANTHEM ; their own SALUTE, and their own DAYS OF COMMEMORATION.

To understand and value the significance of JUNE 26 and appreciate its meaning to millions of oppressed Africans in South Africa, it is necessary to recall that *THE HISTORY OF WHITE RULE IN SOUTH AFRICA IS A HISTORY OF RULE BY FORCE, VIOLENCE AND MASSACRES*

So, we see shooting and killing of Africans during the Anti-Pass Campaigns in 1919, the 80,000 Rand African Miners' Strike and the Port Elizabeth African Workers'

Strike in 1920.

Then the Bullhoek massacre of 1921 where 163 Africans were killed and 130 wounded ; the Bondelswarts shooting in 1922 when 100 persons were shot dead and hundreds of others wounded. People were also killed during the Durban Beer Boycott in 1929 ; and at Durban and Potchefstroom during the 1930 Anti-Pass Campaign.

Our people were attacked at Worcester in 1930, Vereeniging Location in 1938, Rand African Mineworkers' Strike in 1946, Johannesburg May Day 1950 and many other places throughout our country.

The shootings were not confined to the urban areas. In 1957 and 1958, scores of peasants resisting apartheid measures were shot in Zeerust and Sekhukhuniland, Witzieshoek and Great Marico. Then the tragedy at Sharpeville occurred where 69 Africans were shot dead at a peaceful and passive demonstration in 1960.

Finally, our memories are still fresh with the heroic armed resistance against the installation of Bantu Authorities. Many pitched battles with the fascist police were waged in Eastern Pondoland, and other areas in the Transkei and Ciskei in 1960. The White racist regime resorted to rule by naked force and proclaimed a State of Emergency in the country. In the Transkei, the State of Emergency was executed under PROCLAMATION 400 which is still in force to this day.

White rule in South Africa is government by arbitrary decree, by force and violence. To oppose this system of White race domination, our people have embarked on all forms of struggle. It is worthwhile recalling that as from 1950, the ANC and its allies in the S.A. re-

volution have launched on June 26 each year national campaigns to mobilise mass resistance to apartheid, to galvanise the masses into active struggle for the overthrow of White racism and the achievement of national independence, democracy, human dignity, racial harmony and peace.

June 26, 1951 was observed in South Africa as Rededication Day and preparations to start the National Positive Action Campaign. There were mass meetings held throughout the country.

June 26, 1952 was marked by the launching of the Defiance of Unjust Laws Campaign. This campaign shook the fascist regime. It was a milestone in the relentless efforts of the ANC to bring about national unity in the struggle to eradicate the evil system of apartheid. The Pact which was signed in 1946 by the late Dr. A. B. Xuma, then President-General of the ANC, with Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and Dr. G. M. Naicker, Presidents of the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Natal Indian Congress, respectively, in which they agreed to unite their forces against apartheid, bore fruit during the Defiance Campaign. The Campaign had as its main objective the repeal of six of the numerous unjust laws under which White supremacy is maintained in South Africa. These laws were :

- the Pass Laws,
- the Suppression of Communism Act,
- the Group Areas Act,
- the Bantu Authorities Act,
- the Separate Representation of Voters' Act,
- the Rehabilitation and the culling of cattle



## Schemes

From June 26, when the National Campaign for the Defiance of Unjust Laws began to December 1952, more than 8,500 men and women of all races went to jail having defied the unjust laws of South Africa.

The fascist White regime under Dr. D. F. Malan took fright when they realised the countrywide support for the Campaign. They convened their Parliament and passed two laws—the Public Safety Act, and the Criminal Laws Amendment Act—in an effort to stem the growing tide of mass resistance to apartheid. But the revolutionary upsurge of our people cannot be muzzled by draconian laws and fascist police techniques.

June 26, 1954 : At a Conference in Uitenhage, the ANC called for 50,000 Freedom Volunteers to begin collecting the demands of the people to be compiled into a Charter of Freedom. Once more, the masses of our people expressed their wants and wishes, their aspirations and ideals.

June 26, 1955 : This was the occasion of the holding of the epoch-making Congress of the People. Five thousand people of all races, from all parts of South Africa, gathered together at Kliptown in the Transvaal. In spite of police intimidation, the delegates converged on Kliptown from every part of South Africa to take part in the Conference. Their deliberations and the demands which they formulated were from that day enshrined in the revolutionary guide to a new South Africa—THE FREEDOM CHARTER.

It was also that historic Congress of the People which on June 26, 1955 revived the meritorious order—

ISITWALANDWE—which is the title of recognition for valour and bravery in battle, which our forefathers used to bestow on outstanding warriors in the struggle against colonialism. On that day the recipients of the Meritorious Order of ISITWALANDWE were Father Huddleston, Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and the late Chief Albert Lutuli. Father Huddleston (now Bishop of Masasi, Tanzania) was present at the gathering but the other two leaders were prohibited from attending gatherings under the fascist laws.

From June 26, 1955 all the national campaigns that were launched from time to time were for the realisation of the demands set forth in the FREEDOM CHARTER. The FREEDOM CHARTER became the rallying-point and blueprint for mass action to bring about the political, economic and social structure which the people demanded. Indeed, in 1956 the panic and fear of the fascist White oppressors caused them to arrest 156 of the leaders of the people and charged them with High Treason.

Every year, June 26 was observed all over South Africa with huge bonfires being lit to symbolise the undying flames of the revolutionary struggle against apartheid and White domination. Sabotage activities took place during these years of police terror.

June 26 is now observed under conditions that are most barbaric, when all civil liberties in South Africa have been negated, and when South Africa is ruled by force and violence by the Vorster regime. South Africa is now a full-fledged fascist police state.

On June 26, 1963 Walter Sisulu, an ANC leader now on Robben Island, made an historic call to the nation over

Radio Freedom of the ANC which was kept underground. Sisulu said :

“The hour has come for us to stand together. This is the only way to freedom. Nothing short of unity will bring the people their freedom. We warn the Government that drastic laws will not stop our struggle for liberation. Throughout the ages men have sacrificed—they have given their lives for their ideals. And we are also determined to surrender our lives for our freedom. In the face of violence, men struggling for freedom have had to meet violence with violence. How can it be otherwise in South Africa ? Changes must come. Changes for better, but not without sacrifice. Your sacrifice. My sacrifice. We must succeed ! We will succeed ! Power to the People !”

### **The Present Phase**

This year, June 26 is of special significance. It brings tremendous hope and determination to the ANC and the oppressed struggling masses in South Africa. This is the first June 26 when in the heartland of White tyranny, in Zimbabwe, the guerrilla units of the ANC and ZAPU are inflicting heavy blows on the White racist troops. Our guerrilla struggle is a people's war for national liberation. The first volleys of battle were fired at Wankie in July 1967.

It was Chief A. J. Lutuli who condemned the life imprisonment sentences imposed on Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and others in the Rivonia Trial in 1964. Chief Lutuli pointed out that :

“However, in the face of uncompromising White refusal to abandon a policy which denies the African and other oppressed South Africans their rightful heritage—FREEDOM—no one can blame brave and just men for seeking justice by the use of violent methods ; nor could they be blamed if they tried to create an organised force in order ultimately to establish peace and racial harmony.”

The late Chief A. J. Lutuli met his tragic death in July 1967. He did not live long enough to see his immortal words come true.

The ANC decided on the policy of meeting the fascist violence with revolutionary violence within the lifetime of Chief A. J. Lutuli. We are continuing our struggle against apartheid by the only means left to our people—armed guerrilla war.

This is a war which entails tremendous difficulties and obstacles. It has already struck fear and despair in the ranks of the white oppressors. The forces of the freedom-fighters have also lost many noble and valiant sons in the battles that have raged in Zimbabwe since July 1967. South Africa has rallied to the side of the rebel Smith regime. They have sent in some two thousand (2000) white soldiers, military helicopters, armoured cars, ammunition and rifles to buttress and bolster up the White rebel regime in Rhodesia.

The masses of the oppressed people in Zimbabwe have rallied in support of the guerrilla war. The enemy fascist troops have unleashed violent attacks on our people in Zimbabwe using helicopters, aeroplanes, tanks and other forms of artillery. But the ANC-ZAPU guerrillas showed

themselves masters of the battlefield. Our forces employed all the tactics of guerrilla warfare and fought back heroically. Now even the enemy admits that our men are well-trained, well-disciplined, brave and experts in tactical guerrilla warfare. These victories and achievements are a source of inspiration and encouragement to the liberation struggle in the whole of Southern Africa : in Mozambique, Angola, SWA, and South Africa. Our people are at war. The ANC-ZAPU guerrillas are continuing the heroic peoples' war.

The African revolution has rolled down to South Africa's doorsteps. It cannot be too long before the flames of freedom sweep in to consume the evil forces that have plagued our country for centuries. Certainly, our struggle will be hard and bitter. But certainly also, the sands of time are running out for the racists and oppressors, and each year, JUNE 26 heralds the approaching hour of reckoning. To hasten that hour, the ANC summons all who have strayed away from the path of revolution to return to the fold. We call upon all our people in and outside South Africa, and on all our friends and supporters throughout the world to rally behind the struggle for liberation led by the African National Congress in South Africa.

We are at war. Do your duty ! Make your sacrifice ! Support our guerrilla war ! And let us go forward to establish a new social order in South Africa.

That is the call of June 26 this year.

Issued by the  
National Executive Committee,  
African National Congress of  
South Africa, June 26, 1968.

**Amandla Ngawetu !**  
**Maatla Ke Arona !**  
**Power To The People !**

**What you can do**

To make the commemoration of JUNE 26 a success, we suggest that you and your organisation should :

establish immediately June 26 Solidarity Committees, hold public rallies and demonstrations during the June 26 Solidarity week,

approach your Government to break diplomatic, trade and other relations with South Africa, call upon your Government to enforce UN resolutions against South Africa,

condemn all countries that supply arms and ammunition to South Africa and call upon them to stop such trade,

demand the Release of all Political Prisoners in South Africa who include Mandela, Sisulu, Mbeki, Kathrada, Fischer, Goldberg, Sobukwe, 'Caleb' Mayekiso, Mkwazi, Motsoaledi, Mlangeni, Billy Nair and thousands of others,

send your protests to the :

South African Prime Minister,  
Union Buildings,  
Pretoria, South Africa,

demand the expulsion of South Africa from all international sports bodies,

hold teach-in debates at schools, colleges and universities on the threat to international peace and security posed by the existence of White minority racist police states in Southern Africa,

subscribe to ANC publications obtainable from:

P.O. Box 2239,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,

send us copies of speeches, resolutions, photos of meetings, radio scripts, etc. organised in the June 26 Week of Solidarity with the S.A. guerrilla war.

start fund-raising campaigns in support of our guerrilla war. Remember South Africa spends £120 million annually on its Defence Budget alone. Send your financial contributions directly to :

The Treasurer-General,  
A. N. C. of South Africa,  
P. O. Box 680,  
Morogoro, Tanzania.