



# **SUPPORT THE SOUTH AFRICAN STRUGGLE: (SPEARHEADED BY THE ANC)**

**By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, jnr**

The image of 17 year old Godfrey Dlomo of South Africa continues to haunt me. As that

country enforces its recent banning of all legitimate protests by anti-apartheid organisations, I am reminded of that youngman. I see again his gentle smile and a face that looked younger than its years. Godfrey was interviewed for the riveting CBS documentary "Children of Apartheid" which aired last December. After describing the many times he had been beaten while in jail, he was asked, "Is your life in danger?" He responded, "Yes, it is because I might be arrested or eliminated at any time." On January 20 this year the South African Police arrested Godfrey, saying they wanted to question him about his interview in the film. Five days later, on January 25, he was found lying under a tree near his grandmother's house. He had been shot to death.

Spokesman from South Africa's Law and Order Ministry said they arrested the young man because, "he had made serious allegations (against the police). While the governments of the United States and other western countries maintain their supportive relationships with South Africa, that regime continues to tighten the screws on dissent. The new government degree prohibits 17 groups from "carrying on or performing any acts whatsoever," including speaking against Apartheid. These restricted included the UDF, with over 2 million members.

The Rev. Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance Reformed Churches and founder member of the UDF, warned, "every single peaceful action we can take has now been criminalized."

Nobel Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu sounded the same alarm, "Peaceful paths to change are being closed off one

by one... White South Africans must realize that they are at the crossroads. If they don't stop this Government soon, and there is not much hope that they will, we are heading for war." It is the reality of this impending holocaust which makes President Reagan's statement about the crack-down so absurd- and so dangerous.

At a recent press conference the president stated that the crisis in South Africa was "a tribal policy more than it is a racial policy." It is not a tribal policy which forced mourners attending the funeral of a young man murdered by police to get tickets to his funeral-including his mother.

It is not a tribal policy which has banned the 800,000 members of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the main black labour movement from any show of opposition to the government. It is not a tribal policy which directed the recent arrest of 150 clergymen, including Archbishop Tutu, Rev. Allan Boesak and other church leaders. Nor is it a tribal policy which detains and tortures over 8 000 children in prison in South Africa.

And finally it was not tribal policy which killed Godfrey Dlomo because he dared to speak out against the racist Apartheid regime of South Africa.

We, in this country, must speak out as well. On the Legislative front the Delmus-Cranston Sanctions Bill (HR 1580/S556) will soon come up for debate in Congress.

That Bill would require a total trade embargo and the withdrawal of all U.S. corporations from

South Africa and from Namibia, which South Africa illegally oc-



cupies.

We must also be aware of those corporations that continue to do business in and with South Africa, many of them through licencing agreements which deliberately subvert even the watered down sanctions law now in effect.

Among the most blatant are the Ford Motor Company and Shell and Mobil Oil Companies, which continue to fuel the deathpumps of Apartheid.

Then there are the department stores, such as Macy's, which continue to carry merchandise made in South Africa. We must make such complicity with evil unprofitable.

The image of Godfrey Dlomo remains with me and it must remain with us all. He risked his life by raising his voice. Can we, who risk nothing, do any less?