

Wanted: Election observers

Idasa invites all interested readers to help with the elections. If you wish to volunteer as a non-partisan and independent observer, send Idasa your name, address and telephone number before the end of March. As an observer you will be allowed into voting stations, and will be needed only on the voting days unless you are able to watch the count as well.

Idasa regional offices will provide training closer to voting day. We will ensure that you get drawn into an observer team either under the banner of Idasa or under the emerging National Election Observer Network (Neon) if you are able to sign the observer code of conduct.

'Together we will help to make sure that South Africa will be able to elect a government which can take us on the next mile to democracy'

Whether you volunteer as an observer or not, please let us know if you see anything at the voting stations or anywhere else which strikes you as irregular.

If you have access to a fax machine, send us your written report stating your name and contact number, giving details of the incident and when and where it happened. Otherwise, telephone an Idasa office with the details and our staff will take up the issue with the Independent Electoral Commission.

There is nothing to stop any person from going straight to the IEC Monitoring Directorate at (011) 397-5000, but we intend to help by making sure that all over the country there are people watching the elections to see that they are free and fair.

Contact any office of Idasa if you want to offer your help, and together we will help to make sure that, despite the problems, South Africa will be able to elect a government which can take us on the next mile to democracy.

Ciudadanos chilenos mencionados en las listas de los 119 (22 y 24 de julio de 1975), detenidos desaparecidos al igual que cientos de compatriotas.

¡¡justicia!!

AGRUPACION DE FAMILIARES DE DETENIDOS-DESAPARECIDOS. CHILE 1988

INJUSTICE!: A Chilean poster published by the Association of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared. A Truth Commission has been held in Chile to bring out in the open the gross human rights transgressions that occurred under General Augusto Pinochet's military regime.

next issue of *Democracy in Action* - was to begin to clarify policy options and priorities in the South African situation. What will follow is a second, more ambitious conference that may take the form of a series of public hearings, where the victims of apartheid, South African specialists and the

'For the victims, in particular, there is a vital difference between amnesty and amnesia, between knowledge and acknowledgement'

general public will engage further around these issues.

Another part of the programme, which will also cover the human rights abuses of the opponents of apartheid, will be an extensive documentation exercise, capturing the experiences of those who suffered under apartheid in a range of ways. Such a public record should add an essential human

dimension to the process of formulating policy recommendations.

The fact that scores of people have been granted amnesty, and that there is a commitment to further amnesty, inevitably has certain implications for future policy. But Boraine hopes the new government will appoint a Truth and Reconciliation Commission before further amnesty is granted.

One of the tough decisions a new government will face is what to do if individuals with records of human rights abuse are elected to public office. Another involves the complex issue of prosecution - who gets prosecuted and how are sentences determined?

"Many will say they only did their duty but the fact is that they went well beyond the call of duty," Boraine says. "Tough laws were in place, but it didn't stop the hit squads, death squads and dirty tricks."

The hope is that a Truth and Justice Commission, painful and costly though its establishment may be, will serve to ensure that "hit squads, death squads, dirty tricks" do not happen again.