



# A BROTHERLY INVITATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY

In this year of "Advance to People's Power," on behalf of the ANC leadership and all the democratic-minded people of South Africa, I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

My task in this paper is that of a messenger. Firstly I bring you Christian revolutionary greetings from our far-sighted leadership and also from the oppressed masses of South Africa. Secondly, I bring you a brotherly invitation from both the former and the latter.

In his 1985 Presidential Address to the nation, O.R. Tambo cites four factors as the pillars of our political struggle. One of these pillars is international support or international solidarity. According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary, a pillar is, among other things, "a person who is a main supporter."

The major question that arises is: Why is this fourth pillar equated to the other three?

The answer to this important question is two-fold. Firstly, this is to acknowledge the political support rendered by the international community in exposing and isolating the Racist Pretoria regime.

In conjunction with our South African Brothers and Sisters (both Black and White) the international religious people have declared apartheid a heresy—a crime against humanity. Satanic apartheid distorts what God "saw as good" — man — after creation.

As members of this tested vanguard Movement of our beloved South Africa, we sincerely laud you for your positive contribution towards our still maturing struggle. We salute you all.

However, apartheid is still very much alive. It is on the loose. Like a wounded lion, it kills and maims all true prophets of the Living God. The once peaceful streets of our beautiful country have been turned into killing fields. In short, the racist Pretoria regime has declared war against Yahweh-our Living and Loving God. Even three year old children, like Mita Ngobeni, have been brutally killed. They are no more. Yes! The name of our Lord and Saviour is being profaned in the streets of the White Babylon. And this Satanic regime has the audacity to claim that it acts on behalf of our Loving God and western democracy.

How long, Brothers and Sisters, should we be tormented like this. How long should we be subjected to such extreme blasphemous acts? Now is the time for us to close ranks and take another historical step forward in the name of Christ against this racist monster.

Our divine task is not yet accomplished. It is still in its embryonic stage. Let us tell the regime that its Satanic and violent days are numbered. "Thus says the Lord of Hosts."

If apartheid is the product of man's greed; the product of sin; it should have been destroyed from below long ago. As God's special chosen people; people exclusively set apart by God for God; people who have been endowed with a very important power of discernment by

Yahweh Himself, the divine task of destroying what is not of God rests squarely on our shoulders. We have no choice and there is no middle road.

Fellow combatants of Christ, "an extra day of apartheid is an extra day too long." Now is the time. The God of history; the God of our fore-fathers; the God who always sides with the under-dog, the down-trodden, is on our side. We cannot afford any longer to be indifferent when the image of God is being crucified in the streets of the White Babylon. Yes! In South Africa, Botha and his generals are crucifying our Liberator, Jesus Christ.

How are you then expected to contribute towards the destruction of what has been declared a heresy? Are your prayers alone adequate to accomplish this enormous and divine task?

Yes! As religious people prayers are the key to the Holy of Holies. It is through prayers that we are able to find and follow God's way in this wicked world and read His mind. However, prayers lead to positive action. In other words, prayers not accompanied by positive action become an empty slogan. They cease to be a divine key to a divine action. They end up being used as a reactionary weapon which is ultimately utilised to escape our prophetic role in this evil world.

We cannot expect God to start throwing stones against the racist regime. God's power of love for the poor will only be realised through our practical endeavours. So, when you see the children of Soweto, Guguletu, Langa, Mamelodi, Umlazi (the flowers of our National Democratic Struggle) confronting the Satanic racist regime in the streets of the White



Babylon, barehanded, behold! that is God's love in action.

On this point in time of our history, the most practical approach of solving South African political problems is for you to join hands with the ANC. To be more specific, let us be in mission. This is a sincere invitation to you. We are reaching out to all those democratic-minded people who have the love of our beloved country at heart. Let this golden and rare opportunity not slip out of your hands.

It is only through such political partnership with the ANC that the International Religious Community could surely influence the political course of our National Democratic Struggle. It is only through such holy alliance that you could also be part and parcel of the engine of political change in present South Africa and in a future free, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

I beseech you to come with me as I briefly attempt to analyse the Nazi German and Colonial Mozambican Churches which deliberately failed to hear the cry of their worshippers when they needed them most. But this should not be misinterpreted as an attempt by me to frighten or to coerce the religious community into accepting this invitation. Perceive this as an attempt to remind the Church about the atrocities which were committed not in the name of its Founder, Jesus Christ, but in the name of Satan. The Church is called upon to take up its cross — the symbol of suffering and victory — and follow our Lord and Saviour.

In Nazi Germany, when Hitler was all out to exterminate the Jewish people, the Church was busy holding extravagant synods which were mainly debating about

the latest Church vestments — flashy and expensive garments worn by priests during divine services. It was only when the existence of the Church, as an institution, was threatened by Nazism that the Church woke up and reluctantly challenged the status quo. Hence the death of great Church martyrs like Kietrich Bonhoeffer. In short, the Church in Nazi Germany failed to be the true witness of the Kingdom of God.

Again, not very long ago in the then colonial Mozambique, the Church (particularly the Roman Catholic Church) found herself caught up in the Satanic tentacles of the Portuguese colonial masters. Even certain religious individuals who endeavoured to live up to their divine call were over-shadowed by the unGodly behaviour of the Church. She became intertwined with the colonial oppressive machinery and totally lost her prophetic role.

When the oppressed peace loving people of Mozambique under the political guidance of FRELIMO rose up against the status quo, the Church there felt threatened. Due to her unholy alliance with the forces of darkness such political uprising was perceived as a direct assault to the Church.

Consequently, in the name of Satan — the evil force which successfully hijacked the Church — the religious community did its best (in conjunction with the state) to suppress the unstoppable Mozambican Revolution. After the defeat of the colonizers, the Church experienced political turmoil.

As religious people, we should be the first to know that God uses many ways to punish His own when reason fails to prevail. In Mozambique, God purposely punished the Church that has failed to:—

— Bring good news to the

poor

- Heal the broken-hearted;
- Announce release to captives, and freedom to those in prison;
- Comfort all who mourn,
- Give to those who mourn, joy and gladness instead of grief,

- A song of praise instead of sorrow. (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

Dear Fellow Christians or religious Brothers and Sisters, what the Church in the post colonial Mozambique experienced should be perceived and be accepted by all religious and democratic-minded people as a fitting divine judgement. It is and will remain a divine lecture for us all.

Let us not allow ourselves to be controlled by narrow religious sentiments. God used and will continue to use even non-believers as His earthly divine instruments, whenever the Church fails to be Christ-like. Let us all remember that King Nebuchadnezzar, the pagan ruler of ancient Palestine was also used as God's servant to punish the children of God when they renounced Yahweh and worshipped other gods (Jer. 25:9; 27:6; 43:10).

Coming back to the South African situation, let me offer you once again ANC's hand of political friendship. Please! Let us close ranks and give Satan no space to manoeuvre. Time is on our side. Together, let us take another important political step forward against the racist regime.

This historical political invitation to you, therefore, answers the second part of our central question: Why this fourth pillar?

Let all who truly love and obey the commands of the Holy Spirit now say, as we say here :

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**"AN EXTRA DAY OF APARTHEID IS AN EXTRA DAY TOO LONG"**

Dear Brothers/Sisters,

It is a matter of great honour and happiness to our people to inform you that on the 27th - 29th March, 1987 the African National Congress of South Africa together with foci of peace, freedom and social progress all over the world has established the inter-faith chaplaincy whose first and foremost task is to minister to the spiritual needs of the ANC religious community in exile.

The inter-faith Chaplaincy will work with, and co-operate with all South African religious organisations, denominations and institutions towards a fruitful and divine religious witness in South Africa, as the "Evangelical Witness" and the "KAIROS DOCUMENT" have already set the pace.

"The present crisis challenges the whole Church to move beyond a mere 'ambulance ministry' to a ministry of involvement and participation".

We express our profound gratitude to your church, to the christian and religious communities in your country for identifying with the genuine aspirations of our people. The various activities mounted by religious people all over the world for the total isolation of the racist regime of South Africa are a source of courage and strength to our people.

It is the part of the proven history of the ANC that among

its founding fathers and early leaders are to be found such true Christians as Rev. John Dube, first president of the ANC, Minister of the Congregational Church, S.M. Makgatho, second president of the ANC Methodist leader and lay preacher; Rev. Z.R. Mahabane, third president of the ANC, Minister of the Methodist Church Rev. W.B. Rubusana, one of the four vice-Chairman of the Congregational Union of South Africa, and Rev. J.T. Gumede the fourth president of the ANC.

These great sons of our people and those who followed in their footsteps, saw clearly that their own efforts to secure human fulfilment and salvation lay also in their active involvement in the struggle for national liberation.

True Christians and religious people in our country today are realising that as long as apartheid exist in our unhappy land, meaningful change is totally impossible. Thus ministers of religion, Church leaders, religious activists are identifying themselves with the cause of the oppressed and are challenging the racist Pretorian regime and its oppressive machinery of terror. They rally in their thousands to the call of the ANC to join with other patriots to mobilise the masses of the people, including millions of believers, to engage in the struggle for a democratic South Africa based on the noble ideals enshrined in the Freedom Charter.

Our people are suffering

massive violations of their fundamental human rights. The racist regime is committing genocide against our people. Jesus Christ is being crucified in the streets of the White Great Babylon. Millions are forced to endure conditions of poverty and degradation so that a tiny minority can engage in unlimited personal and financial speculation.

We are however more determined to make the sacrifices that the situation demands of us and we believe that peace and brotherhood in our country can only be realised after the total destruction of the racist Pretoria regime.

We wish to invite your Church and the whole Christian and Religious communities in your countries to join our struggling masses and be political partners in this just and holy political war of ours. We further kindly request your Church or religious formations to render us the necessary humanitarian support to enable us to successfully our intended programme of action.

We are confident that Christians and Religious people all over the world will engage in further activities in support of the just cause of our people now and beyond victory.

The Lord of Hosts, through His humble servant, has spoken.

In His Service,  
Yours In Christ,  
Rev. Gqiba F. Fumie  
(ANC CHAPLAIN)

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"These God-given human freedoms we will fight for, side by side, throughout our lives, until we have once and for all, destroyed what is not of God - Racism."

Let all those who have ears hear. The ball is in your court. Thus says the Lord.

**CLARION CALL TO WORLD CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

THE masses of our people and their vanguard Organisation, A.N.C. will both stand stronger if the rest of the world community stands with us and is actively engaged in

striving to accomplish the following programme:

increase moral and material support to the African National Congress and other patriotic forces of our country, for the trans-

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November. His untimely death was due to over exposure to cold and the lack of proper medical care while detained under the state of emergency and kept at the notorious Victory Verster Maximum Prison in Paarl.

Comrade Rev's, as he was known amongst the comrades started political involvement in the fifties with the ANC where he was a member of the volunteers group in Nyanga under the leadership of comrade Oscar Mpetha who together with our leader, comrade Nelson Mandela, were imprisoned at first state of emergency in 1960. It also resulted in Rev. having difficulties to find employment. Whenever employed the racist made sure that he was sacked. This led him to become a minister. It remained a question whether Rev. had time for his congregation.

At the time of Rev's death, he worked as an organizer for the General Workers Union and also for The Ecumenical Action Movement (TEAM). During the launch of the UDF in 1983 he was appointed as one

of its patrons. Rev. had spent all his life in the struggle. He was an untiring freedom fighter and a jack of all trades. He worked with the youth, students, women, religious groupings and workers. Also well known as an interpreter at political and religious meetings he would at times become more of a speaker and give political content to speeches which lacked it. To the youth he always stressed the importance of discipline and hatred for the enemy. He maintained that people should fight back heroically whenever they are in the hands of the racist police. He would say "Use every piece of furniture or anything you could lay your hands on and hit back". Cowards and sell-outs he stressed should be dealt with accordingly by the masses.

Rev. is no more but his revolutionary ideas and noble works live. You have taught us how to fight the enemy. You have instilled in us that revolutionary hatred for the enemy and the need to continue to fight till the end. Your death came at a time when we have intensified our commitment in bringing

about freedom in our lifetime. At a time when the roots of apartheid are showing their decaying effect. At a time when sunrays are showing the sparkling light of freedom.

Was it not you who saw the birth of our glorious army-Umkhonto We Sizwe? Was it not you witnessing how they dished out vicious blows to the enemy? Yes! it was you who had witnessed the incarceration of our leadership to the notorious Robben Island. Rev. you have died a happy man you have witnessed the escalation of our armed struggle and the overall participation of our people in the struggle.

Time has come to say farewell Comrade Rev. The spear that you carried heroically in your lifetime had been sharpened and is carried with determination by all of us. Your courage and strength are in the hearts and minds of young and old. Your desires and wishes will be fulfilled.

Your death shall be avenged. . . .

Hamba Kahle Qhawe  
Lamaqhawe.  
Mayihlome!

### ANC DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS



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- fer of power to the people;
- Severance of all political economic and cultural links with the apartheid regime of South Africa;
- Ensure strict observance and enforcement of the UN Security Council arms embargo against racist South Africa;
- Urge member churches of the WCC and all countries to withdraw investments

- from South Africa;
- Encourage member churches of the WCC to contact and cooperate with one another at regional and local levels with the purpose of enhancing and strengthening the Programme to Combat Racism;
- The education and activation of every Christian throughout the world to

- raise their level of personal and collective involvement in the struggle to eradicate racism;
  - Encouragement of the Church in South Africa to be fully involved in all aspects of the struggle against apartheid, for a democratic South Africa.
- "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons and daughters of God."