

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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UDF STATEMENT ON NATIONAL DETAINEES DAY

10/3/87

The UDF fully supports the Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC) call for 12 March to be a national day of protest against detentions and nine months of the Emergency.

The UDF rejects with contempt the SAP's bullying tactics at intimidating the newspapers not to publish the DPSC advert calling for the observance of National Detainees Day. We also condemn yesterday's police raids on the offices of the DPSC, the UDF and Cosatu. It is ludicrous to attempt to prevent us from calling for the release of thousands of our leaders and children incarcerated in apartheid's jails. This call is not only in the hearts and minds, but is also on the lips of all our people.

The UDF calls on our millions of supporters throughout the country to observe Thursday the 12th as a day of action by:

1. Calling meetings of residents, workers and students in each school, street and factory to discuss ways of taking up a campaign against detentions and to end the Emergency;
2. Visiting families of those detained in your street to show support;
3. Lighting candles on the night of the 12th;
4. Observing a national fast on 12 March from sunrise to sunset; and
5. Calling on church ministers to observe Sunday, 15 March, as a national day of prayer for detainees.

Over the past few days the UDF has issued thousands of pamphlets in numerous areas calling on our supporters to heed these requests. We have called on our activists to ensure that the calls are properly explained to the people before 12 March; and to ensure that they are implemented in a responsible way. Undisciplined actions will only benefit those trying to disrupt the campaign. We call on all communities, including the white community, to make it crystal clear to the government on 12 March that the vast majority of people in this country are demanding the end of detentions and the end of the emergency.

MURPHY MOROBE V^ j l , _ UDF ACTING PUBLICITY SECRETARY

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