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USF

United Democratic Front

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RESOLUTIONS

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1.

REMOVALS AND GROUP AREAS

The forced and cruel uprooting and removals of our people from our land and homes as evidenced at Crossroads and Khayalitsha have been the backbone of this government's apartheid scheme.

Bulldozers and trucks remove our people daily and dump them in areas far from their working places. Children are hurt, our leaders killed, families have been torn apart and communities destroyed.

We have over the years been robbed of our land, shelter and livelihood. Our protests are met with teargas, batons and bullets.

We are divided, urban from rural, community from community.

WE DEMAND the return of our land and homes.

WE DEMAND the right to live where we please in the land of our birth.

NOW THEREFORE, this First National Conference of the UDF held at ROCKLANDS, MITCHELL'S PLAIN, CAPE TOWN on 20 AUGUST 1983,

SALUTES

All communities who struggle against the group areas and removals, Demand that the government must repeal this group areas act and stop inhuman removals now, and return the land to the people.

URGES

Communities faced with removals to organise their people to resist removals.

FURTHER URGES

ALL communities to join with the affected community to fight removal

2. RESOLUTION ON HOUSING POLICY

NOTING THAT:

1. Housing is a basic human need. Decent shelter, healthy living conditions, and houses at costs that people can afford, designed to produce security and comfort, are rights which all citizens must enjoy.
2. Our need is to be housed close to our places of work. Our need is for rents we can afford.
3. We have some guarantee that our houses will not be bulldozed, that we will not be forced to move either to other areas or homelands, and that we will be allowed to live in the areas of our choice. We must know that our children will grow up in safety and health.
4. We want more government - subsidized housing.
5. There is a housing crisis prevalent in our country today as a result of the cruel policy of removals, the Group Areas Act, the system of low wages.
6. That the new housing policy introduced by the Govt. is part of the new constitutional plan to create a Black middle class resistant to democratic change.
7. The Government does not hear us!
We need security - but the government bulldozes our homes and forces us elsewhere.
We need Govt. subsidies - but the government has almost stopped them.
We need to live close to our places of work - but the government builds townships far away.
We demand housing, but the government spends the money on the army, police and bulldozers.

NOW THEREFORE, this First National Conference of the UDF held at Roclands, Mitchells Plain, Cape Town on ^{20th} August 1983,

RESOLVES:

1. that the government scraps its new housing policy.
2. that the government must not force people to buy their homes.
3. that rents must be subsidised and fixed at prices that people can afford.
4. that the government must not introduce site and service schemes as a substitute decent houses.
5. that more government subsidised houses must be provided.
6. that the Govt. should provide good quality housing and should maintain houses at no extra cost to people.
7. That communities throughout South Africa organise themselves to oppose this new housing policy.

3. RESOLUTION ON WORKERS

THIS NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

NOTING:

1. That workers are the producers of the wealth of this country, yet they do not enjoy the benefits of the wealth they produce;
2. That workers do not enjoy security in their jobs as evidenced by rising unemployment and the increasing threat of retrenchment;
3. Workers continue to be harassed, intimidated and jailed in their attempts to organise against these exploitative and oppressive conditions through the building of genuine democratic trade unions;
4. That state manoeuvres such as the President's Council Proposals, Wiehahn/Rieckert and the Koornhof Bills are designed to destroy the unity that workers are striving to build and are aimed at denying workers genuine political rights;
5. The migrant labour system drives down the wages of workers and forces them to live in single-sex hostels;
6. The critical situation of worker organisations in the Ciskei.

AND BELIEVING

1. That workers must fully share in the benefits of the wealth they produce;
2. That workers are entitled to security in their jobs and freedom from unemployment;
3. That workers have a right to organise themselves into trade unions of their choice without state repression;
4. That workers must enjoy full democratic rights;
5. That migrant labour and influx controls are a fundamental denial of the rights of workers to work where they choose;
6. In the leadership of the working class in the democratic struggle for freedom.

THEREFORE RESOLVES:

1. To work for a South Africa in which the oppression and exploitation of workers will cease to exist;
2. To encourage the building of genuine democratic trade unions;
3. To oppose the migrant labour system and to fight for the right of workers to permanent urban residence;
4. To strengthen the unity between genuine democratic trade unions and all patriotic and freedom loving people in the struggle for political rights for all.

4. RESOLUTION ON THE COST OF LIVING

NOTING

1. Now, more than ever before we face a serious attack on our living standards. Millions in our country are jobless and homeless.
2. Government subsidies are shrinking. The prices of bread, milk and other commodities are rising. We face crippling price increases.
3. Many are starving in our country of gold. The load is pressing on our shoulders.
4. A few enjoy privileges while most of us live a life of poverty and misery.
5. Our people have a basic right to cheap and nutritious food. We also believe that only in a country in which we have control over the riches, will we enjoy these rights.
6. The unequal and ^{totally} inadequate social security benefits in the form of pensions, unemployment insurance and other state grants.
7. the problems above are caused by the Govt. preferentially allocating funds to defence, Police and propaganda.

NOW THEREFORE, this First National Conference of the UDF held at Rocklands Mitchells Plain, Cape Town on 20th August 1983,

RESOLVES:

1. to continue to struggle for our basic right to cheap nutritious food and other essentials.
2. to create and join democratic organisations through which we will fight for these rights.

5. RESOLUTION ON EDUCATION

NOTING

1. That the separate and inferior system of education for the majority of the people of South Africa entrenches inferior and undemocratic ideas;
2. that this education system entrenches apartheid;
3. the courageous ^{struggles} being waged by our students across the length and breadth of our country;
4. the continued harassment of democratic student organisations in our schools, technikons, colleges and universities

AND BELIEVING THAT

1. our student's struggle rises out of genuine grievances;
2. Education should be free, equal, relevant and compulsory in a united South Africa;
3. The education system in South Africa should be based on the needs of the people;
4. unequal access to the wealth and resources of our country means that very few of the oppressed people have access to primary secondary and higher education;
5. Over crowded classrooms and unqualified teachers have the same root causes as high rents or housing shortages;
6. An Education Charter should be drawn up after democratic consultation.

Hereby resolve, under the banner of the UDF,

1. to fully support the struggles being waged by our students;
2. to continue the fight and demand for a single, non-racial and democratic system of education for all in a democratic South Africa;
3. that students, teachers and community organisations should unite to fight for democratic education.

6. RESOLUTION ON THE CISKEI

NOTING:

- i. that the Ciskei is a shock-absorber body intended to police and persecute the oppressed people in that part of the country in the interest of the racist Botha/Malan/Koornhof clique.
- ii. that the ruthless harassment and denial of the fundamental democratic rights to our people in that part of the country is not an accident but a general expression of the tyranny which grinds our people throughout the divisive system of separate development.

WE RESOLVE:

that the struggle of our people in that part called Ciskei is indeed the struggle of the assembled democrats here and democrats throughout the length and breadth of our country.

7. RESOLUTION ON MILITARISATION

NOTING:

1. the increased militarisation and massive defence budget of our country while our people are deprived of the basic necessities for living
2. the continued acts of aggression perpetrated by the SADF against our neighbouring states
3. the growing instances of young people resisting conscription into the S.A. army
4. the SADF is involved in a campaign to win the hearts and minds of young children in communities through the organisation of youth camps and believing:
 1. that the SADF is being used by the S.A. regime to uphold white domination
 2. that the government intends through its constitutional Bill to compel Indians and Coloureds to join the army to defend Apartheid.

Hereby resolves

1. to resist all forms of militarisation
2. to demand an end to compulsory conscription
3. to demand that the SADF ceases its campaign to destabilise our neighbouring states
4. to support, in whatever way possible, those who do not join, the SADF.

8. RESOLUTION ON NAMIBIA

For many years, the people of Namibia, like us in South Africa have been subjected to the tyranny of racist rule.

Increasingly allegations are being made of SADF brutality in that country. South Africa continues to occupy Namibia illegally despite fierce resistance from the Namibian people and condemnation from the International community.

We believe that the struggle of Namibia's people against South African rule is a just one; that the Namibian struggle is our struggle.

WE THEREFORE:

1. Demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia and unconditional release of all Namibians in South African jails.
 2. Reject with contempt the attempt by the USA in particular, to link the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia with that of the Cubans from Angola.
 3. Pledge our full and unqualified support to the heroic struggle of the Namibian people under the gallant leadership of SWAPO.
 4. Demand that the SADF cease their illegal actions in Angola.
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9. RESOLUTION ON BANTUSTANS

NOTING:

1. that the Bantustan Policy and the Group Areas Act are the hall mark of apartheid.
2. that , although this racist regime can supply the technology to make Bantustans economically viable.
3. that 13 % of this land is occupied by 75 % of the people.
4. that the people who live in the Bantustans reject the Bantustan policy.
5. that the "rulers" of the Bantustan Policy are doing their masters calling.

WE BELIEVE :

1. that South Africa belongs to all South Africans
2. That South Africa is one indivisible whole.

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To reject the Bantustan Policy and Bantustans unqualifiedly.

10. RESOLUTION ON WOMEN

This conference notes:

1. that the extent to which women are organised is a barometer of the level of struggle as a whole;
2. that many of our finest and bravest women have been forced into exile by the apartheid system;
3. that this system thrives on divisions, one of which the division between men and women created by unequal wages and conditions of employment; inequality before the law and vicious applications of removals and pass laws against women.

WE BELIEVE:

1. that the goal of full recognition of all women; of freedom, happiness and security for our children cannot be achieved in the present political and economic situation;
2. that oppression in South Africa cannot be wholly removed without removing the oppression of women.

WE THEREFORE CALL on all women to bring their organisations into the United Democratic Front, so that we can make real our commitments to fight shoulder to shoulder with our menfolk in the common struggle against race, class and sexual discrimination.

11. RESOLUTION ON IMPERIALISM

WE NOTE with concern the support of the Thatcher , Reagan and Began administration for the South African Government's Constitutional Proposals.

WE KNOW that the U.S. government is ,through its policy of constructive engagement , really only furthering its own economic intrests in our country at the expense of the well-being of our people.

This unashamed/^{greed}and callous support for this unpopular and undemocratic government by the government of USA , Britian and Israel cannot stop us in our march towards freedom and cannot crush our resistance.

WE BELIEVE:

1. that all foreign goverments must recognise the right of other people to live in a non-racial democratic country;
2. that those who claim to believe in the noble ideals of democracy have the obligation to support the just struggles of the S.A. *people* ,

NOW THEREFORE, this first National Conference of the UDF held at Roc klands , Mitchell's Plain , Cape Town on 20 August 1983 ,

RESOLVES:

1. to demand the immediate end to the U.S.-British -^{Israel}Governmentssupport for the South African Government ;
2. to reject the policy of constructive engagements and demandsthe immediate end to any support for the S.A. Government.

12. RESOLUTION ON DETENTIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS AND EXILES

The first National Conference of the UDF held at Rocklands Centre, Mitchells Plain, on the 20th August, 1983,

CONDEMNNS

The Government for its policy of detaining opponents of apartheid under its draconian and undemocratic laws.

WE DEMAND:

1. The immediate release of all detained under Security Legislation.
2. The immediate release of all political prisoners.
3. The unconditional safe return of all political exiles.
4. The repeal of all security legislation relating to the detention, banning and banishment of people engaged in the freedom struggle.

13.

HARASSMENT AND REPRESSION

NOTING:

1. That the government, despite its false claims of reform, continues to use brutal force in its attempt to crush the forces of resistance;
2. That notwithstanding this onslaught, the government is finding it increasingly difficult to prevent the collapse of Apartheid;
3. That our leaders continue to be jailed, banished and harassed;
4. That this repression and harassment is directed at people's organisations.

HEREBY RESOLVE

That we will not be deterred by these actions of the State to stop our march to freedom.

Submitted to Res. Committee