

JUNE 16

WOULD WE STAND AND WATCH: OUR CHILDREN BEING SHOT?

No parent would stand by and allow their children to be harmed. If they were shot at, any parent, black or white, would come to their defence.

This is what happened on June 16 1976 after Hector Peterson, a 13 year old little boy, was shot by police

On this day, Hector, like many others, had joined a peaceful march to protest against being taught in Afrikaans. Long before this, schoolchildren and teachers alike had complained about this. How were they supposed to understand difficult subjects like maths and science in Afrikaans? Worst of all was writing exams in a strange language!

Parents, teachers and community leaders had tried to explain this to the authorities. They tried to negotiate. They were rebuffed!

It was not surprising that the June 16 protests took place. But was the violence that followed really necessary? Why fire on schoolchildren? Surely if children are shot their whole community will rise to their defence!

This uprising resulted in 18 months of escalating violence during which more than 1000 lost their lives.

SOUTH AFRICA HAS NEVER BEEN THE SAME SINCE!

WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?

If the Apartheid system had not been there this would never have happened. Apartheid created the problem of inferior education.

Apartheid prevented the people from having a say about their problems. And it brought out the police in the end - as if this were a solution!



Being carried home: A little boy of 13, Hector Petersen, was the first child shot dead by police on June 16, 1976. All that he had done was to peacefully protest against inferior Bantu education.

APARTHEID IS DESTROYING THE LIVES OF BLACK PEOPLE!

June 16 has happened again and again. Apartheid has brought about miserable conditions for millions of black South Africans. From high unemployment and rising GST to a serious lack of decent housing and facilities.

APARTHEID IS DESTROYING THE LIVES OF WHITE PEOPLE!

Apartheid has instilled fear in us - fear for the future of ourselves and our country. Worst of all - fear for our children having to face the violence. We belong in South Africa - it is the country of our birth. We have nowhere else to go. Yet apartheid is a threat to our future. It has tried to divide South Africans from each other.

APARTHEID IS DESTROYING OUR COUNTRY!

Because of Apartheid, South Africa has been condemned by the whole international community. We are unacceptable to the rest of the world. Because of Apartheid, the Rand is plummeting; investment is threatened; there is gross mismanagement of the economy by the Government! Because of Apartheid, we are all forced to live in a permanent state of crisis.

WE MUST DESTROY APARTHEID!

Only when the system of Apartheid is dismantled and there is full participation in the decision making in the country can there be peace in South Africa. As whites we are not powerless to help bring this about. We can use our voice to force the government to its senses; to

- call for the recognition of the real leaders of the people!
- call for the release of Mandela!
- call for an end to repressive actions and measures such as the new Security Bills.
- call for the complete and immediate dismantling of Apartheid and the beginning of a new South Africa where black and white can live side by side.