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DISTRICT 65 INITIATES MOBILIZATION AGAINST APARTHEID
35,000 NEW YORKERS UNITE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

Outraged by the recent mass murders and arrests of Blacks in S.A., South Africans at the funerals of their family members and neighbors, 35,000 New Yorkers from every walk of life, young and old, streamed into the area in front of the South African Mission on 42nd Street between 1st and 2nd Avenue Tuesday, August 13, and demonstrated in a spontaneous show of support to Black South African resistance against apartheid.

The huge, unexpected turn-out, which was engineered by District 65, and an array of community and city leaders who formed a sponsoring coalition of more than a hundred organizations, manifested the growing concern of New Yorkers in one of the most critical issues of the time.

2 *organized by Dist. 65/AANW as a*
NAW - (some general staff employees of GBGM are housed
at its Emergency Reserves.
General staff members employees of
GBGM feel honored to belong to this
union which has a long stable record
of being in the forefront against apartheid & racism

The Coalitions demands to the South African Mission were:

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- (1) End the state of emergency, stop the murders, and free Nelson Mandela and all South African freedom fighters;
- (2) The U.S. government impose stiff sanctions against South Africa;
- (3) U.S. corporations and banks divest from South Africa now.

More than 25 speakers representing unions, church groups, colleges, elected officials, and community organizations--included celebrated people as singer, Harry Belafonte; tennis star, Arthur Ash; union leaders, Cleveland Robinson Jim Butler, and religious leaders, Herbert Doughtry, Father Lucas and Bishop Antonio Ramos; ANC representative, Brother Ndaba; and spokespersons from American Jewish Congress, Chinatown Peoples Association, and the popular movement singing team, Serious Business.

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District 65 was one of the prime movers in organizing 35,000 people on Aug. 13th who streamed into the area in front of the South Africa Mission to protest apartheid and speak out in support for Black South African resistance.

of District 65 was a
major part of a general
spontaneous
protest

The unflagging enthusiasm of the marchers kept hitting new crescendos of spirited chantings which resonated through the streets as marchers packed 20 abreast clapped rhythmically with African drums beating, accompanying the words: "Death to Apartheid, Free Mandela."

This quickly organized demonstration was revealing of the strong feelings that New Yorkers, especially Blacks, harbor in their comprehension and consciousness of the life-and-death struggle taking place in South Africa. As speaker after speaker reiterated: "We must destroy, not just apartheid in South Africa, but racism here!"

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During the rally, a United Nations Press Release was circulated which stated that Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and a member of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, announced that he has sent a telegram to P.W. Botha, President of South Africa urging the release of Nelson Mandela and Zephania Motupeng, liberation leaders, that they may come to Geneva and participate in a discussion of their peoples' struggle at the current session.