

# SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

## CALL ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

**O**n 11 November 2002, the Khulumani Support Group, an organisation of survivors of Apartheid violence, instituted a lawsuit in the US against 23 transnational corporations for their role in human rights abuses committed in Apartheid South Africa. This lawsuit is supported by Jubilee South Africa and many national and international organisations.

The right of foreigners to institute lawsuits in the United States was upheld by the US Supreme Court on 29 June 2004. The Khulumani lawsuit provides a strong opportunity to build on this ruling and strengthen human rights law to enforce the global principle that corporations are liable

for universally recognised violations of human rights and should make redress for these violations. The advances made thus far represent a significant threat to the largest corporations. They are gathering their forces to oppose the so-called "apartheid lawsuits", and have enlisted the support of governments like the US, British, Swiss and our own South African Government.

The Khulumani case thus takes on an enormous significance. The South African Government letter to the court in July last year calling for the dismissal of the cases represents perhaps the biggest stumbling block to a successful outcome. Jubilee South Africa and Khulumani have thus made every effort to engage our government

on this issue. The two organisations and the amici (friends of the court) listed below are making a further urgent call upon our government to amend or withdraw their submission. In so doing, the South African Government will stand by the growing international human rights community campaigning for the supremacy and universality of human rights law, which obligates adherence to behaviour that respects basic human dignity.

The Amicus Curiae brief (friends of the court submission) in support of the Khulumani litigation was filed at the Southern District court in New York on 29 September 2004.

### THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE SUPPORTED THE LITIGATION:

#### SOUTH AFRICA TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu  
Chair  
Cape Town, South Africa  
Yasmin Sooka  
Commissioner  
Pretoria, South Africa  
Hugh Lewin  
Member, Human Rights Violation Committee  
Johannesburg, South Africa

#### CIVIL SOCIETY: Religious Organizations and Church Leaders

Africa Desk of the Protestant Federal Church  
Germany  
South African Catholic Bishops Conference  
South Africa  
Commission Tiers  
Monde de l'Église Catholique  
Switzerland  
Geoffrey Davies  
Bishop, Church of the Province of South Africa  
South Africa  
Ecumenical One World Solidarity Group of Parishes  
Germany  
Ecumenical Support Services  
Germany  
EMS Protestant Mission Society in South-West  
Germany  
European Continental Province of Moravian Church  
Bad Boll, Germany  
Martin Huhn  
Church Network of Industrial Mission  
Germany  
Kairos  
Europa/Ecumenical European Network of Grassroots Organizations

Germany  
Father Michael Lapsley  
Institute for the Healing of Memories  
South Africa  
Douglas Muller  
Former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa  
Pennsylvania  
Norwegian Church Aid  
Norway  
Luke Lungile Pato  
Program Director, Proclaiming Reconciliation and Peace Building Programme  
South African Council of Churches  
South Africa  
Pax Christi of the Catholic Diocese of Limburg  
Germany  
Cristoph Reichel  
The Moravian Church  
Germany  
Ruby Sprout  
Chairperson, South Africa Support Group  
Riverside Church of New York  
New York, New York  
Swiss Interchurch Aid  
Switzerland  
Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund  
Switzerland  
Young Christian Students  
Germany  
Young Christian Workers-Free State  
South Africa  
South African Civil Society Organizations and Individuals  
Alternative Information and Development Centre  
South Africa  
Anti-Privatisation Forum  
South Africa  
Boipatong Community Development  
South Africa  
Boipatong Development Forum  
South Africa  
Terry Crawford-Brown  
Economists Allied for

Arms Reduction-South Africa  
South Africa  
Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation  
South Africa  
Daveyton Environmental Youth Council  
South Africa  
RC Dibakwane  
South Africa  
Environmental Justice Networking Forum  
South Africa  
Evaton West Crisis Committee  
South Africa  
Free Burma Campaign (South Africa)  
South Africa  
Freedom of Expression Institute  
South Africa  
Gender & Trade Network in Africa  
South Africa  
Industrial Ministries of South Africa  
South Africa  
Inanda Dam Affected Communities  
South Africa  
Rhonda Kadalle  
Former Commissioner, South African Human Rights Violation Commission  
South Africa  
Khanya College  
South Africa  
Khanya Women's Empowerment  
South Africa  
KHOCC  
South Africa  
Landless Peoples Movement  
South Africa  
Mothohe Mokhansto Innovators  
South Africa  
Muslim Youth Movement  
South Africa  
NBS Project  
South Africa  
Orange Farm Water

Crisis Committee  
South Africa  
Palestinian Solidarity Committee  
South Africa  
Pan Africanist Women's Organisation  
South Africa  
Pan Africanist Youth Congress  
South Africa  
Philadelphia National Youth Directorate  
South Africa  
Quigney Safety Forum  
South Africa  
Ratang Agriculture Usindiso AIDS Project  
South Africa  
Samancor Retrenched Workers Crisis Committee (SAMANCOR)  
South Africa  
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Prisoners  
South Africa  
Sounds of Education Cultural Artists  
South Africa  
Services and General Workers Union  
South Africa  
Small Farms Community Crisis Forum  
South Africa  
South African History Archives  
University of the Witwatersrand  
South Africa  
South African National NGO Coalition  
South Africa  
South African Prisoners Organisation for Human Rights  
South Africa  
Thembeba Concerned Residents Association  
South Africa  
The Timbila Poetry Project  
South Africa  
Youth for Work  
South Africa

Southern Africa Civil Society Organizations and Individuals  
All Africa Women for Peace  
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