



Apartheid Debt and Reparations Campaign

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**Letter of Appeal to the Department of Justice
by the Swiss Apartheid Debt and Reparations Campaign
8 June 2011**

To the Department of Justice

The Swiss Apartheid Debt and Reparations Campaign joins other stakeholders, in particular our partner organisation Khulumani Support Group, in rejecting the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's (DOJ&CD) regulations gazetted on 11 May 2011, for the payment of educational assistance and health benefits *exclusively* to victims identified by the TRC. As a coalition of organisations who have been fighting against apartheid and who since 1997 have been supporting the claims by apartheid victims and survivors for acknowledgement, compensation, redress and reparations, we see the urgent need for adequate reparations for all who have suffered gross human rights violations in South Africa, those who were left out of the TRC process and those identified by the TRC.

We acknowledge the great merits of the TRC in starting to unravel the truth about the crimes of apartheid but we are also sadly aware of the fact that – for various reasons – it has failed to accommodate all victims and survivors in its proceedings. Its findings can therefore not serve as the database for granting reparations. We share the view of our partners that government has not adequately addressed the plight of victims who in their great majority are still living in great poverty and suffering from the manifold effects of the human rights violations inflicted on them. In fact, they have been grossly neglected in any post-TRC measure. Dividing them into categories of the privileged and the marginalised will add another injustice to their suffering and is not acceptable.

Switzerland has been one of first contributors to the President's Fund destined to alleviate the situation of apartheid era victims. Being a Swiss organisation who has taken a strong stand in demanding that our government assumes full responsibility for its role played during apartheid, we feel that reparations should be fully inclusive of all those who qualify for such.

We therefore request you to engage in meaningful consultation with victims and revisit the gazetted regulations considering their needs and wishes. We sincerely hope that you will thus be able to come up with a proposal that may be embraced by those directly concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Müller
Coordinator Swiss ADR Campaign