

# The Anti-Springbok-5 Defense Committee

c/o Material Aid Campaign for ZANU(PF)  
P.O. Box 1276 · Stuyvesant Station

New York, New York 10009  
Service: 212 868 3330

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Queens Supreme Court  
Queens, New York

## PRESS STATEMENT

We are here today to demand a halt to the criminal proceedings against the Anti-Springbok 5. Queens Supreme Court Judge Agresta has refused to allow our cases to be tried jointly and today will try to set in motion five separate trials for the Anti-Springbok co-defendants. We understand that the state's strategy is motivated by the fear that a consolidated political trial will expose the criminal actions of the u.s. government and the weakness of their case against us.

On September 26, 1981 we were part of a militant demonstration at Kennedy International Airport against the racist South African rugby team. Our demonstration was attacked by the Port Authority police and five of us were arrested. When we took action against the Springboks we joined in a worldwide movement with tens of thousands of people who look to the leadership of the liberation struggles in Africa in defeating the system of white supremacy and who see u.s. imperialism and its puppet South Africa as our enemy. We had an impact in crippling the u.s. government's strategy to build mass support for apartheid through the Springbok tour. When the rugby team returned to Johannesburg, their supporters asked them, "How does it feel to be home from the wars?" It is because we are part of a movement in this country which supports the right of African people worldwide to fight for land and independence that we have been treated by the state as terrorists and conspirators. We are not 5 individuals. We are part of an anti-imperialist movement which charges the u.s. with being a main violator of human rights in the world and a direct military and political force behind the illegal regime in South Africa. Were we "individuals" when the government imprisoned us for 5 weeks on Rikers Island while they unsuccessfully tried to force us to turn over the names of people across the country who contributed to our bail? The state is using the Anti-Springbok cases to try and criminalize the anti-apartheid movement. While the tour was here, the government gave its full might to protect it - surrounding the games with SWAT teams and attack dogs aimed at all of us who protested. In Albany the FBI admitted to spying upon and attempting to infiltrate the demonstrations. Two of the SART (Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour) Coalition's organizers were acquitted after it was exposed in their trial that the Albany police planted guns in their car.

Our co-defendant Eve Rosahn will be produced in court this morning. On February 25, following her complete exoneration of the frame-up charges brought against her in Rockland County, she was again incarcerated for her refusal to participate in the FBI's RICO grand jury witchhunt into the Black liberation and anti-imperialist movements.

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The grand jury is attempting to make public support for the Black Liberation Army a criminal offense. However, the stance of non-collaboration by Eve Rosahn and other grand jury resisters - Gerri Gaines, and Yaasmin Fula - has fully exposed the use of the grand jury as a means of political detention. We believe it is critical to give public support to the Black Liberation Army, the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN), the Revolutionary Armed Task Force and the October 20 freedom fighters because they are fighting for the only strategy that can win liberation for oppressed and exploited peoples. We fully support the grand jury resisters. Their united stance is a defeat to the state's strategy to intimidate the movement and force people to collaborate. The Puerto Rican independence movement has shown us that the only way to defeat the grand jury is by uncompromising resistance and on April 1 the Puerto Rican independence movement will win a major victory against the grand jury when Carlos Noya and Norberto Cintron are released.

Whether we win a consolidated trial or we are tried separately, the Anti-Springbok 5 are committed to a political offensive to expose u.s. imperialism as the criminal. We charge the u.s. government with issuing visas to the Springboks in violation of international mandate, and we hold the u.s. responsible both for international terrorism against African liberation struggles and for the propagation and growth of domestic terrorism through organizations like the Ku Klux Klan. We are committed to fighting all attempts of the u.s. government to organize masses of white people to support white supremacy and will continue to build a movement that fights for African liberation and the liberation of all oppressed people until u.s. imperialism is defeated. Exonerating the Anti-Springbok 5 is a key case in building that movement. The u.s. government's attempt to criminalize the Anti-Springbok 5 for demonstrating against the "ambassadors of apartheid" and in support of the liberation of Azania/South Africa is a message to the entire movement in the u.s. In the face of this repression, our only response is to build resistance and active solidarity with the forces defeating our common enemy.

VICTORY TO AFRICAN LIBERATION WORLDWIDE!

STOP THE GRAND JURY!

EXONERATE THE ANTI-SPRINGBOK 5!