



Seminar

The unfinished business of Apartheid

The lawsuit of South African Apartheid victims against Daimler and Rheinmetall - Corporate Responsibility on trial

KASA

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medico international

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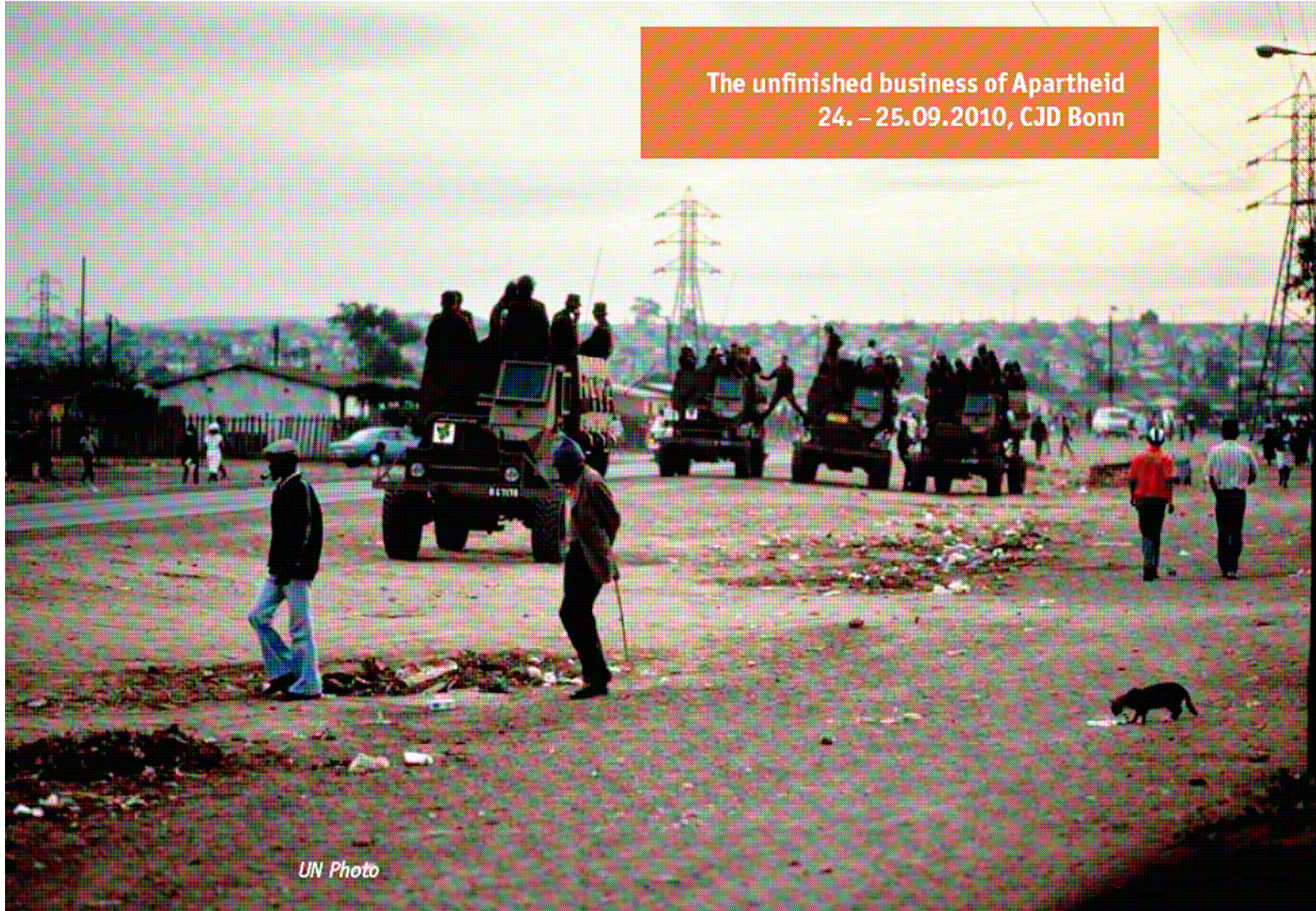
 Medizinische
Flüchtlingshilfe
Bochum e. V.

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Development Service

The first free and democratic elections in South Africa were held in 1994. Nelson Mandela became the first black president. He had become the symbol of the fight against Apartheid. During Apartheid the racial oppression claimed thousands of lives. Reappraising the bitter past through the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* received international recognition. Even International companies had the opportunity to present their role during Apartheid and draw appropriate consequences. Mostly they did not take the chance. The consequences of apartheid still remain to be seen and felt for a long time.

In 2002 South African Apartheid victims filed a claim for compensation in the United States of America against five international companies. Daimler, Ford, IBM, General Motors and Rheinmetall are accused of consciously supporting the racial system of Apartheid in South Africa, which was in 1966 labelled as a crime against humanity by the General Assembly of the United Nations. In 2009 the claim was approved by a New York Court.

Plaintiffs are beside others the Khulumani Support Group, a self-help organisation that represents about 54.000 Apartheid victims. The victims are represented by the law firms Hausfeld LLP (US) and Abrahams Kiewitz (South Africa).



1 March 1985
Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Within South Africa the claim is supported by the South African Council of Churches, trade unions (COSATU, NUM) and many members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The South African government is committed to a balance between the victims and defendant corporations. Contrarily, the German government sees the state sovereignty and the capacity of German corporations threatened.

The adherence and enforcement of international human rights is an important political aim: they can be the impulse and scale for humane living conditions. On the German, European and International level is no sufficient legal basis to sue international companies for the violation of human rights.

Together with Marjorie Jobson, the Director of Khulumani, Charles Abrahams, the victims' lawyer and further guests we would like to inform about the claim's background and discuss possibilities and legal options of implementing international human rights.

Programme

Friday

- 18.00 Arrival and dinner
19.30-21.30 Welcome and brief introduction
Human rights and profits - the action of South African Apartheid victims against Daimler and Rheinmetall
Charles Abrahams, Lawyer, South Africa
Marjorie Jobson, Director of the Khulumani Support Group

Saturday

- 8.00 Breakfast
9.00 **Investment security for enterprise and / or enforcement of human rights? South Africa in a quandary?**
Hein Moellers, issa
9.45 **Compensation for victims of human rights violations: Proposals from South Africa**
Marjorie Jobson, Director of the Khulumani Support Group
10.30 **Voluntary commitments by companies to comply with human rights - possibilities and limits**
Johanna Kusch, German Watch
11.30 Coffee break
12.00 **Legal opportunities to penalize human rights violations of transnational companies**
Miriam Saage-Maass, ECCHR
13.00 **Lunchtime**
14.00 **Working groups for deepening and discussion:**
Human rights and profits: The action of apartheid victims
Charles Abrahams, *Marjorie Jobson*
Commitments of Enterprise: Introduction / Campaign
www.rechtfuermenschen.de
Johanna Kusch
Legal options against corporations to prosecute human rights violations
Miriam Saage-Maass
South Africa in a quandary?
Hein Möllers
15.00 **Panel discussion: Beyond voluntary agreements - Prospects for the enforcement of mandatory standards in transnational companies**
 - *Charles Abrahams*, Lawyer
 - *Miriam Saage-Maass*, ECCHR
 - *Johanna Kusch*, German Watch
 - Business representatives (tbc))
 - Representative of Ministry of Economic or Foreign Affairs (tbc)
17.00 End of the seminar

Costs and Travel Advise

Please register as soon as possible and by 13 September 2010 at the latest. Please use the registration form.

The participation fee is € 40 and can be paid at the meeting place. Cost for accommodation and catering are included. The overnight stay will be in single rooms. The amount of rooms is limited. Consequently, we recommend an early registration.

The participation of day guests is possible. The costs are therefore € 10. Travelling costs are regrettably not refundable.

Contact and Further Information:

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Meeting Place:

Guesthouse CJD Bonn
Graurheindorfer Str. 149, 53117 Bonn, Germany
Fon: +49 228 – 98960

Travel Advice:

Travelling by Car: A 565, exit "Bonn-Auerberg", direction city centre (Innenstadt), after 200 metres on the right-hand side

Travelling by Public Transport:

- by Train (Bonn Hauptbahnhof), Tram line 61, direction Auerberg, stop "Innenministerium", then against/contrary to driving direction walking distance about 2 minutes
- from ICE Train Station Siegburg-Bonn: Tram line 66, stop "Stadthaus" Bonn, change to Tram line 61, direction Auerberg, stop "Innenministerium"

Further Information:

www.cjd-bonn.de/bonn

Arrival map:

www.kosa.org/anfahrt-cjd

Registration

I herewith make a binding registration for the seminar "The unfinished business of Apartheid".

- ☐ I would like to book an overnight stay in a single room (€ 40)
- ☐ I will not stay overnight and register as a day guest for
 - ☐ 24 September 2010 in the evening (for free) or/and
 - ☐ 25 September 2010 lunch included (€ 10)

I will pay in cash at the start of the event.

Sender _____

Organisation _____

Family Name _____

First Name _____

Street Address _____

Post Code, City _____

E-mail _____

Date, Signature

Please send back this paragraph by post or fax.

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