Apartheid in Practice

South Africa After Ten Years of Freedom

UN Publication

(adapted from a booklet by the same name in 1976 by the Department of Public Information at the UN)

Home, Family, Residence

1. An African who was born in a town and there for 50 years, but then left to live elsewhere for even two week, cannot return to his hometown and stay there for more than 72 hours without a permit. If he does stay without a permit, he can be punished by fine or up to two months in jail.

7. Even if an African was born in a there and lived there for 14 years and worked for the same person for 9 years, his wife has to receive a permit to live with him for more than 72 hours.

11. A policeman can go inspect anyone’s home at any time of day or night.

12. Africans need permits to have their wife and children live with them.

13. At 16, an African boy can be arrested without a warrant if he “has reason to believe that he is an idle person[lazy].”

16. If an African is caught living in a city without a permit, he can be removed and placed anywhere where he has no relatives and no job. The cost of removing him will be taken from any money or possessions they find on him.

Movement

51. Every African over the age of 16 has to have a pass book. A policeman can ask for their passbook at anytime. If the African does not have a passbook, he can be fined or put in jail.

Work

57. A government official can fire an African worker at any time, even if their employer doesn’t want them fired. The African can then be removed from his town until the government officer says.

59. If a black person is doing any “skilled” work, such as carpentry or bricklaying, must have a special permission for not hiring a white person. If he does it without permission, he is committing a crime.

63. African factory workers cannot call on other people to strike for a pay increase. Punishment is a fine and 3 years in prison.

80. If a white worker is disabled, he gets a payment monthly. An African worker who gets disabled just gets one payment of money.

87. When an African’s job ends, he can be sent back to his home in the country.

Education

93. Schools for African children must be registered by the government.

97. White people are not allowed to teach their servants how to read. Even in the white person’s own home.

103. African students cannot attend even one lecture at a white university.

Marriage, Assembly, and Association

104. Blacks and white need a special permit to have a cup of tea together in a café.

106. African professors need a special permit to speak at white clubs, even if they are invited.

107. Sitting on a white bench in a public park is illegal for black people. Punishment can be a fine, 3 years in prison or a whipping of 10 strokes.

109. Black people cannot enter the a white waiting room at the train station.

117. If a white South African or a foreigner marries a Coloured woman not in South Africa, the marriage is void[doesn’t count] in South Africa. The spouses may go to jail in South Africa.

137. A white ma who tells a group of African that the apartheid laws are unfair and should be disobeyed is guilty of a crime. Punishment is a fine or1 year in prison.