

Some Global Facts You Should Know!

- *44 of 52 countries that have life expectancies of 55 years are in Africa (World Health Organization 2001)*
- *19,000 children die daily because of IMF/World Bank structural adjustment policies (Dennis Brutus, South African Activist and World Health Organization)*
- *At least 3,000 children die each day because of malaria, (over 1 million in 1 year) (NPR report, April 2003)*
- *Of the 3 million people who died of AIDS in 2002, 2.4 million people were in Sub Saharan Africa. Africa has been the hardest hit continent in terms of health survival issues.*
- *In one region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 20,000 children go without access to education (Gaspar Ntizia, DRC activist)*
- *The United Nations in 2001 spends 11 cents a day for African refugees, while spending \$1.23 for every European refugee.*
- *A 1999 study on income inequality by the World Bank showed that the richest 1% of people in the world receive as much income as the poorest 57%.*
- *The G7 countries have 12% of the world's population but use over 70% of its resources and dominate all decision-making bodies.*

The World Health Organization's 1946 constitution states "...The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services."

In response, African leaders who attended the Abjua, Nigeria meeting on AIDS and HIV, in April 2001 committed to spending 15% of their national budgets on AIDS and HIV. African governments are prohibited from meeting this need because they are forced to give priority to repayment of illegitimate foreign debts.

The global assessment of the above problems can be understood to be Global Apartheid, where race, geography, sex and caste determine the quality of one's life. In many ways, the division of the world along income and geographic lines mirrors the former apartheid system in South Africa. These divisions are aggravated by a crushing foreign debt from International Monetary Fund and World Bank sources. We ask that you attend this or future informational programs about Africa and its debt burden and what YOU can do to help.

