

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY



POLITICAL PRISONERS

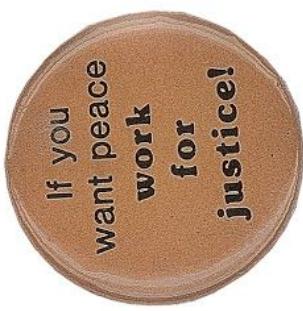
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
KEN LAWRENCE COLLECTION

FEB. 5 - MAY 20, 2020
SIDEWATER COMMONS, PATTIE LIBRARY

International Solidarity explores the visual culture of political protest in the late 20th-century. In particular, the exhibition focuses on posters made by citizens or governments of one country in solidarity with the issues of another country. The objective of the exhibition is to provoke thought about international solidarity in our own time. Many of the issues referenced in the posters and pins on display, including human and civil rights, immigration, and independence movements, are still of concern to many today. The poster and buttons on display are facsimiles of originals that are all from the Special Collections Library at Penn State.

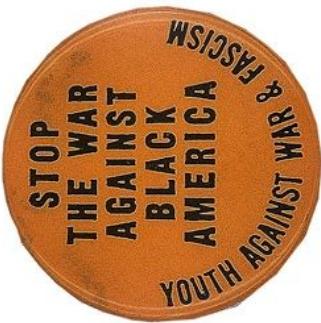
The exhibition is curated by Benjamin Mitchell, a Senior at University Park working on a dual degree in Classics & Ancient Mediterranean Studies and Art History. This exhibition is a collaborative effort between Special Collections and The Search Bar, where Benjamin works as a Peer Research Consultant. After graduation this spring, he plans to pursue an advanced degree in Library Science with a focus in Special Collections.

Questions? Contact Clara Drummond, Curator and Exhibitions Coordinator at cjd86@psu.edu or 814-863-5388.



Wall Preparation:
Terry Williams

Digitization Team:
Wendy Adams
Michael Hoyt
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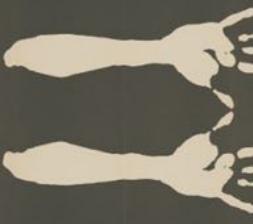


Mounting and Installation Team:
Bill Minter, Senior Book Conservator
Samantha Tepper, Bednar Intern in
Preservation, Conservation, and
Digitization
Maggie Welch, Stelts-Filippelli Intern

East German poster showing solidarity with the newly independent country of Mozambique, which was a Portuguese colony from 1498–1975. The Mozambican War of Independence was waged from 1964–1974 which resulted in the country's independence in 1975.



"Solidarity with the young people's republic of Mozambique"
East German/Mozambique
1970s
Ken Lawrence Collection



This Irish poster supports republican prisoners held in HM Prison Maze (Her Majesty's Prison Maze), a prison in Northern Ireland that was used to house paramilitary prisoners during the Troubles. The Troubles was a conflict between Irish republicans, who wished to form a united Ireland, and the British Army and Irish loyalists, who wanted to remain part of the United Kingdom. In the early 80s there were several hunger strikes among republican political prisoners in H-Block. On the 66th day of the strike, Bobby Sands starved to death. The strike continued, and several other Irish republicans died resulting in mass protests. Finally, the U.K. agreed to certain demands of the protesters, and the strike officially ended.

National Smash H-block Committee

Dublin, Ireland

1980-81

Ken Lawrence Collection

September 23, World Day of Solidarity with the struggles of the people of Puerto Rico (OSPAAL). This poster supports the Puerto Rican independence movement of the 70s.



OCLAE produced many brightly colored and provocative posters supporting anti-imperialism, anti-fascism, and solidarity in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. This particular poster is in support of Angolan independence from the Portuguese. Cuba was very active in supporting African independence movements throughout the late 20th century, both through propaganda, military aid, and financial support.

Organización Continental Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Estudiantes (OCLAE)

Cuba

1972

Ken Lawrence Collection



OSPAAL created by Olivio Martinez
Cuba
1974
Ken Lawrence Collection

In the 1980s there was a strong movement to boycott Coca-Cola products due to their doing business in South Africa where the government enforced an official policy of apartheid that allowed for racial discrimination against non-Whites. Penn State's Committee for Justice in South Africa joined the boycott in 1989.

United States
1985
Ken Lawrence Collection



This student made poster calling for the release of all political prisoners was made in a Political Poster Workshop at the University of California, Berkeley.

United States
1976
Ken Lawrence Collection



Advertising a demonstration in Philadelphia on the 4th of July, 1976, this poster supports a "bicentennial without colonies" and "full democracy and equality."

United States
1970
Thomas W. Benson Collection

Angela Davis is an American civil rights activist and professor. She was imprisoned in 1970 on several charges related to providing guns that were used during a hostage situation in which two Black prisoners, the brother of one of the prisoners who was attempting to free them, and a White judge were all killed. After an outpouring of international support, Davis was found not guilty on all charges and released from prison. She currently works on issues around criminal justice reform and prison abolition.

New York Committee to Free Angela Davis
United States
1971
Ken Lawrence Collection



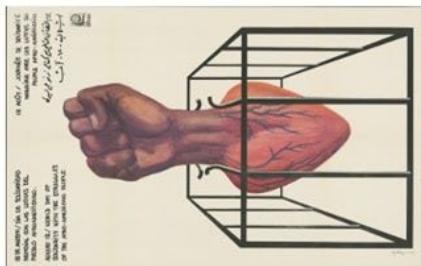
This poster refers to the U.S. backed Contras and their opposition to the Sandinista government. East Germany provided medical and military aid to the Sandinista government of Nicaragua until the reunification of Germany in 1990. Here the U.S. backed group shouts "drop your weapons and hands up" at a boy learning to write "My Country, Nicaragua."

Barbara Henniger
East Germany
1980s
Ken Lawrence Collection



A pinned butterfly, with wings damaged by the unrelenting screws that hold it in place, becomes an apt metaphor for a "Day of solidarity with political prisoners and against fascist and reactionary dictatorships in Latin America."

OCLAE
Cuba
1960s/1970s
Ken Lawrence Collection



Poster honoring August 18th as a world day of solidarity with the struggles of African-Americans.
Organization of Solidarity with the People of Asia, Africa and Latin America (OSPAAAL)
Created by Olivio Martinez
Cuba
1972
Ken Lawrence Collection