

The Just Peace Memorial Project

In order to make a lasting statement of protest, solidarity and hope, the End Conscription Campaign has initiated the Just Peace Memorial Project (JPMP) in the Western Cape. It is hoped that we will be joined by a representative grouping of religious denominations in supporting the Project.

Description

The JPMP will consist of a central memorial in Cape Town. In addition four plaques will be placed at important sites around the Western Cape.

The memorial itself will consist of a bronze sculpture fixed on a stone plinth. The sculpture will be made by a leading young South African artist, Gavin Younge. Attached is an initial diagram of the sculpture, the artist's iconography and curriculum vitae. On the plinth will be fixed a plaque with the following wording:

"This memorial is dedicated to those who have suffered in the pursuit of justice and peace in South Africa.

"We also remember those South Africans conscripted to take up arms against their will.

"Towards a Just Peace.

"This memorial is the centre of the Just Peace Memorial Project. Other plaques can be found at ...etc."

The four other plaques will be located at the following places, and tentatively contain the following wording:

1) At Stellenbosch:

"Hierdie gedenkplaat word opgedra aan alle dienspligtiges wat sonder keuse in die SAW dien. Voorentoe na 'n regverdige vrede."

(Translation) "This plaque is dedicated to all conscripts who serve without choice in the SADF. Towards a Just Peace."

2) At Rondebosch Congregational Church:

"This plaque is dedicated to the families and friends of those suffering under the system of conscription. Towards a Just Peace."

3) At the University of Cape Town:

"This plaque is dedicated to those suffering as a result of SADF actions in Southern African countries. Towards a Just Peace."

4) In a Cape Town township:

"This plaque is dedicated to those suffering as a result of SADF actions in the townships. Towards a Just Peace."

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'Hierdie gedenkplaat word opgedra aan alle dienspliegtiges wat sonder keuse in die SAW dien. Voorentoe na 'n regverdige vrede.'

(Translation) 'This plaque is dedicated to all conscripts who serve without choice in the SADF. Towards a Just Peace.'

2) At Rondebosch Congregational Church:

'Jesus said, 'Blessed' are the peacemakers.'

'Dedicated to all who have suffered as a result of conscription and their families and friends, including those of this congregation. Towards a Just Peace.'

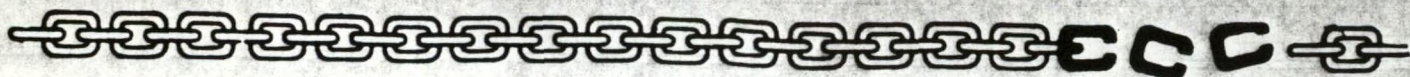
3) At the University of Cape Town:

'This plaque is dedicated to those suffering as a result of South African aggression in Southern Africa. We remember also those South Africans conscripted to take up arms against their will. Towards a Just Peace.'

4) In a Cape Town township:

'This plaque is dedicated to those suffering as a result of SADF actions in the townships. Towards a Just Peace.'

At present, sites are being investigated for the memorial and the plaques. As indicated above, the Rondebosch Congregational Church is to be the site of one of the plaques.



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Why a Just Peace Memorial Project?

The memorial and plaques will be a permanent and thus lasting expression of protest and hope. This is particularly important when we see that we are entering a period of greater restrictions in which much protest will be denied by the authorities. In this light the project will be a constant reminder to the public and those in power of its message.

It is intended that the various elements of the project be placed in public places. Literally thousands will see it every week and hopefully be positively affected by its message.

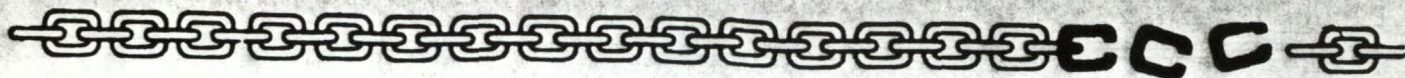
Public awareness of injustice and the struggle for peace in Southern Africa will be raised by the project.

It will promote non-racialism by linking the suffering of blacks and whites.

Our proposed date for an unveiling of the sculpture would be in the first week of October. It is intended that the four plaques be unveiled in the period leading up to that date.

We have identified a number of sites around Cape Town, and are in the process of approaching the bodies responsible. We are hereby also asking your organisation whether you have a suitable site for us to locate the memorial itself. In approaching your department, we had the following sites in mind:

- Somewhere on the Sea Point Promenade;
- The Gardens;
- The grass verge at the intersection of Long, Kloof and Orange Streets.



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We believe you would be making a lasting and worthy contribution to justice in our troubled land by situating the memorial on your property.

We would appreciate a response as soon as is convenient.

Yours Faithfully

David Shandler

(for ECC Memorial Group)



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24 June 1987

Dear Sir/Madam

In order to make a lasting statement of protest, solidarity and hope, the End Conscription Campaign has initiated the Just Peace Memorial Project (JPMP) in the Western Cape. It is hoped that we will be joined by a representative grouping of religious denominations in supporting the project.

We are writing to you with a request for a site for such a memorial. It is hoped that the JPMP will consist of a central memorial in Cape Town. In addition, Four plaques will be placed at important sites around the Western Cape.

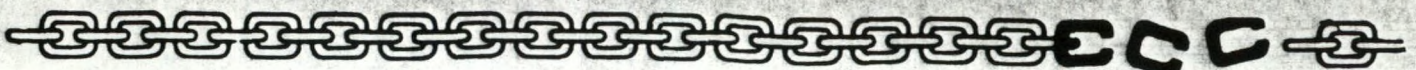
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'We also remember those South Africans conscripted to take up arms against their will.

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24 June 1987

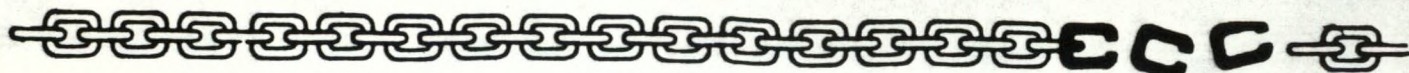
Mr. Gavin Younge
Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture
University of Cape Town

Dear Gavin

This is a note confirming our request to you to design and execute the sculpture which will be central to the Just Peace Memorial Project. While you will execute and do the design of the sculpture, we agreed that ECC and whichever other organisations are part of the project will confer and make final descisions on the design. We will bear the costs, which have been estimated at R15 000.

Yours in struggle

David Shandler
(for ECC Memorial Group)



Sites

At present sites are being investigated for the memorial and the plaques. As indicated above, the Rondebosch Congregational Church is to be the site of one of the plaques.

Why a Just Peace Memorial Project?

The memorial and plaques will be a permanent and thus lasting expression of protest and hope. This is particularly important when we see that we are entering a period of ~~more extensive~~ ^{greater} ~~expression~~ ^{restrictions} in which much protest will be denied by the authorities. In this light the project will be a constant reminder to the public and those in power of its message.

It is intended that the various elements of the project be placed in public places. Literally thousands will see it every week and hopefully be positively affected by its message.

Public awareness of injustice and the struggle for peace in Southern Africa will be raised by the project.

It will promote non-racialism by linking the suffering of blacks and whites.

Timing

^{Our proposed} ~~The earliest~~ date for an unveiling of the sculpture would be ~~mid~~ ^{in the} ~~September~~ ^{first week of October}. It is intended that the four plaques be unveiled in the period leading up to ~~mid September~~ ^{that date}.

Cost

The total cost of the sculpture, plinth and five plaques has been estimated at R15 000,00. The breakdown is:

Sculpture	R10 000
Plinth	3 000
Plaques	2 000

The artist has offered his services free of charge.

~~June 1987~~

We have identified a number of sites around Cape Town, and are in the process of approach the bodies responsible. We are hereby also asking your organization whether you have a suitable site for us ^{to locate the memorial itself.} We believe you would be making a lasting and worthy contribution to justice in our troubled land by situating the memorial on your property.

We would appreciate a response as soon as is convenient.
Yours faithfully,
David Shandler (for ECC Memorial Group)

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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