

**JOIN us FOR AN
INTERFAITH PRAYER &
SOLIDARITY
“CANDLE LIGHT, NIGHT VIGIL”
#BlackLivesMatter
#OfficialsInBadge
THURSDAY 04 JUNE 2020
@6PM**

Time: Jun 4, 2020 06:00 PM Harare, Pretoria

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71170873609?pwd=cFpLZkh3WmpROXFpYjU4eKxMZUIUUT09>

Meeting ID: 711 7087 3609

Password: 7keYfn

**In memory of Collins Khosa & George Floyd and
thousands of Others**

Saydoon Nisa Sayed: saydoons@gmail.com

AGENDA**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION - Saydoon Nisa Sayed****Prayers – 2 MINUTES EACH**

1. **Christian – Rev Mike Vorster**
2. **Bahai – Fudu family**
3. **Jewish - apologies**
4. **Muslim – Sheik Saleem Banda**
5. **Hindu - Sanjit**
6. **Brahma Kumaris - apologies**
7. **Buddhist - apologies**
8. **ONE MINUTE BLACK OUT**
9. **MESSAGE: - Bishop Rubin Phillip**
10. **Light of Candle**
11. **ONE MINUTE SILENCE**
12. **AFRICAN UNION**

ANTHEM**CHRISTIAN PRAYER OFFERED BY REV MIKE VORSTER:**

Greetings before I pray, I would like to share some thought coming from The Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation

“Floyd’s last words - “I can’t breathe” - as he was suffocated under the knee of Minneapolis policeman Derek Chauvin last week, speak for billions of human beings who are fundamentally disempowered because they are poor, because they are black, because they are women, because they are gay, because they are of “other” faiths, because they are defenceless because they fall on the wrong side of their society’s power divide, the systemic inequality gap.

***Khosa died at the end of March**, soon after being strangled, slammed against a wall and hit with the butt of a machine gun by South African soldiers over-zealously enforcing Covid-19 lockdown regulations, his family said. The soldiers involved in the incident have been cleared by a defence force inquiry, but a police investigation is ongoing.*

Although both Khosa and Floyd technically enjoyed the same constitutional and human rights in their respective countries as their white, wealthy or otherwise-privileged compatriots, the actions of the soldiers and police who punished them reflected the painful truth of seemingly different values that societies and their personnel place on different lives.

The Covid-19 pandemic sweeping the globe is a summoning call for collective action, and for a new kind of leadership with the courage to focus on sustaining our humanity and Earth”

On the 21 May 2020 I received the following WhatsApp message from Congolese Pastor and community leader.

[20:56, 5/21/2020] Pastor RAPHAEL 2: Hi baba Bishop. I just had a call from Zeerust, Northwest from bazalwane there. They told me that around 6:30 this evening, they saw group of soldiers, police, immigration offices and people from SARS coming to each house, beating foreigners, breaking their houses. They didn't want to speak to peoples but they were asking for document.

These three incidents are not isolated and are not one off – these systemic acts of brutality are aimed at black people women, men, youth and children. These are expressions of anti-black¹ and afro-phobic sentiments

This is why we need to pause yet again – and I suspect we will be doing so over and over again – we shout enough is enough but this falls on deaf ears – perhaps a new strategy is needed.

We join in solidarity with churches in the USA:

Serving as a leading voice of witness of the Church in the USA in the public square since 1950, is the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) brings together 38 member communions and more than 40 million Christians in a common expression of God's love and promise of unity. <http://nationalcouncilofchurches.us>

The NCC is strongly involved with the following ongoing Anti-Racism campaign



The **A.C.T. Now to End Racism** initiative of the National Council of Churches urges the NCC, its members and partners to **AWAKEN** to the many manifestations of white supremacy and racism especially in the church, to **CONFRONT** the need for change, and to work to **TRANSFORM** church and society into a reflection of the inclusive and equitable reign of God.

ACT Now is a recent call, but NCC members and partners have been engaged in the work against racism for many decades. Indeed, the very existence of the Historic African American Churches constitutes faithfulness to an inclusive gospel of justice and peace and resistance to racism and white supremacy.²

LET US PRAY:

The acronym ACT will be used in this prayer:

O God AWAKEN us to the many manifestations of white supremacy in its different forms from charming racism to blatant racism – all racism kills. George Floyd

¹ <https://www.msn.com/en-za/news/editorpicks/racism-didnt-kill-george-floyd-anti-blackness-did/ar-BB152VUv?ocid=spartandhp>

² Over the years, NCC member communions have developed educational resources and tools fitting their context to further the struggle for racial justice and equity. Here you can find a library of materials for study, discussion, analysis, strategizing, and organizing. Wherever you are on your journey for justice, you are likely to find something here to help you take the next step. <http://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/a-c-t-now-to-end-racism/>

O God Awaken to disregard for life and respect for human life when you have a gun and power and foolish interpretation of the law: - we remember Collins Khosa; the Congolese Refugees in Zeerust who were brutalised by Soldiers and police

Forgive our complicity to racism

O God CONFRONT the need for change. Even though MLK advocated active non-violence as the only way to protest, he recognised that when oppressed turned to rioting he said: “A **riot** is the language of the **unheard**.”

Thousands are gathered to say enough is enough. Change for the betterment of humanity.

Let us become winnowing forks (Luke 3:15-18) to sort the wheat from the chaff; justice from injustice; peace from violence; anti-blackness from dignified humanity and love from hatred.

- We pray especially for the National Council of Churches in the USA. Strengthen their prophetic voice for change of the current dangerously childish and foolish -USA Government administration.
- Strengthen their prophetic voice for change as they seek to overcome the scourge of racism

May love surround and comfort those who mourn the brutal deaths of George Floyd and Collins Khosa and the hundred and thousands who have died unnecessarily at the hands of racist police and overzealous military.

Give us the courage oh God to work to **TRANSFORM** church, religions and society into a reflection of the inclusive and equitable reign of God.

Lord hear our prayers

Lord graciously hear our prayers

AMEN

OPINION - Floyd, Khosa deaths 2 sides of same coin
THE OFFICE OF THE CEO OF THE DESMOND AND LEAH TUTU LEGACY
FOUNDATION

2 days ago



© Provided by Independent Media Police stand guard as protesters rally at the Trump Tower, Monday, June 1, 2020, in Las Vegas, over the death of George Floyd. Floyd, a black man, died after being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on Memorial Day. Picture: AP Photo/John Locher
 OPINION - The distasteful truth linking the deaths of Collins Khosa and George Floyd at the hands of security forces in South Africa and the US is that the lives of certain categories of people in our societies are considered more precious than others.

Floyd's last words - "I can't breathe" - as he was suffocated under the knee of Minneapolis policeman Derek Chauvin last week, speak for billions of human beings who are fundamentally disempowered because they are poor, because they are black, because they are women, because they are gay, because they are of "other" faiths, because they are defenceless because they fall on the wrong side of their society's power divide, the systemic inequality gap.

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soldiers and police who punished them reflected the painful truth of seemingly different values that societies and their personnel place on different lives.

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With radical weather events due to climate change already making landfall, and set to increase, the virus speaks to the profound vulnerability that underpins an unequal and over-exploited world.

Inequality is not sustainable. It dehumanises people, and profoundly limits our ability to mitigate crises.

The tens of thousands of black, white and Latino citizens demonstrating non-violently against racism and injustice on the streets of American cities deserve unequivocal applause. Conversely, opportunistic looting and destruction of property witnessed in the US in response to Floyd's death must be unequivocally condemned.

Martin Luther King Jr., in a sermon at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in 1956, said: "If peace means a willingness to be exploited economically, dominated politically, humiliated and segregated, I don't want peace.

"In a passive non-violent manner, we must revolt against this peace. Jesus says in substance, I will not be content until justice, goodwill, brotherhood, love, yes, the kingdom of God is established upon the Earth.

"This is real peace. Peace is the presence of positive good."

Archbishop Tutu said: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

From the destruction that Covid-19 bequeaths us, we must build a world in which all human beings can breathe, and all can escape the oppression of being deemed expendable in an unequal world.

Outrage across America over George Floyd's death *(Supplied by Reuters)*



THE OFFICE OF THE CEO OF THE DESMOND AND LEAH TUTU LEGACY FOUNDATION

The Mercury