

"They will be faced with tough decisions, and they must come up with bold responses. This is what leaders are for...AIDS will test their leadership skills to the limits."

Nelson Mandela

# TAC CALLS FOR A GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST 2006



## GOVERNMENT MUST ACT TO END 1000 NEW HIV INFECTIONS DAILY. END 800 HIV DEATHS DAILY IN SOUTH AFRICA!

On **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August**, TAC has called for a Global Day of Action. We have tried talking with the government. We have tried the courts. We cannot wait. We are beginning a global campaign of protest action. Some people may be arrested. Everyone must protest in **peaceful** demonstrations always.

## How can you help?

We ask you to take action until these demands are met by government.

President Thabo Mbeki and Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, we demand that you:

1. Convene a national meeting and plan for the HIV/AIDS crisis now!
2. End deaths in prisons – provide treatment, nutrition and prevention!
3. Dismiss health minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang and Director-General Thami Mseleku
4. Government must respect the rule of law and the Constitution!
5. Health for all – end health apartheid. Build a Peoples' Health Service!
  - Sign onto our petition.
  - Speak to your religious, business, sports, school and workplace leaders. Speak to your friends and neighbours about our struggle to end HIV/AIDS.
  - Join TAC at the Durban High Court on Wednesday 23 August 2006 at 10h00
  - Join TAC demonstrations across South Africa on Thursday 24 August – details will be sent out on Tuesday 22 August.
  - Write to all business leaders in South Africa, and all multinational companies doing business with South Africa. Ask them to tell President Mbeki that they support our demands.
  - Write to your Member of Parliament, your Premier, and your councillors asking them to take action.
  - Write to your local newspapers and call radio stations in support of these demands.
  - Call and write to the office of the President in Pretoria in support of the above demands: President Thabo Mbeki, Private Bag X1000, PRETORIA 0001, South Africa  
Phone: 012 300 5200, Fax: 012 323 8246, [sandra@po.gov.za](mailto:sandra@po.gov.za)

## FIND YOUR TAC BRANCH – CONTACT OUR PROVINCIAL OFFICES:

- + Eastern Cape: 043 722 1966 + Gauteng : 011 403 0505 + KZN: 031 304 3673
- + Limpopo: 015 291 5448 + Mpumalanga: 013 755 2298 + Western Cape: 021 447 2593
- + National Office: 021 788 3507 + [www.tac.org.za](http://www.tac.org.za) + [info@tac.org.za](mailto:info@tac.org.za)

+ STOP 1000 NEW HIV INFECTIONS DAILY

+ STOP 800 HIV DEATHS DAILY IN SOUTH AFRICA!

+ BUILD A GLOBAL UNITED FRONT FOR HIV PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

**The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) demands that President Mbeki and Deputy President Mlambo-Ngcuka:**

### 1) CONVENE A NATIONAL MEETING AND PLAN FOR THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS NOW

South Africa needs a new plan to deal with HIV/AIDS. Infection, illness, death, denialism and lack of leadership must be overcome. We need a meeting with everyone – community organisations, business, trade unions, faith-based organisations and health professionals, as long as they do not believe in AIDS denialism. It should put an end to the arguments that we have in South Africa over HIV/AIDS – we should be united!

### 2) END DEATHS IN PRISONS – PROVIDE TREATMENT, NUTRITION AND PREVENTION!

People in prison (inmates) who are sick must be treated as soon as possible. The longer we wait, the more will die. We also need a long term plan for all prisons. TAC and the AIDS Law Project are willing to help. We will keep pressurising the government in the courts and streets, because people are dying now.

### 3) DISMISS HEALTH MINISTER MANTO TSHABALALA-MSIMANG

In her actions on HIV/AIDS Manto has ignored the constitution. President Mbeki

Health for all! Treat AIDS Now! Fire Manto!

has a duty to fire her and the director-general Thami Mseleku. Because of her denial and incompetence, we have –

- The highest number of women who die giving birth in our recent history
- The highest number of infants and children who die mainly because of HIV
- Higher numbers of TB infections and deaths than under apartheid
- Confused, delayed and undermined the ARV roll out

#### 4) RESPECT THE RULE OF LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION

Government must respect the rule of law. They must obey the courts and provide prisoners with ARVs. The Constitution says everyone has a right to life and health.

#### 5) HEALTH FOR ALL – END HEALTH APARTHEID, BUILD A PEOPLE'S HEALTH SERVICE

We need to work together to ensure that everyone can be healthy. Communities and business need to work under government leadership. We must end health inequalities. We say again that we will work as hard as we can, with government, to do this.

#### HIV/AIDS is not under control !

Every day, 1000 people in South Africa get HIV. HIV prevention in South Africa is failing. If people who are HIV positive do not get ARV medicines they get AIDS and die. Most people in South Africa know people who have died of AIDS. **More than 800 people in South Africa die of AIDS every day.**

We have known about ARVs for more than ten years. In many countries across the world, governments have given ARVs to their people and deaths from HIV have quickly fallen. This has not yet happened in South Africa because of the slow and confused roll-out.

Manto Tshabalala-Msimang became Health Minister in 1999. Since 1999, deaths have increased dramatically. **The biggest increases are in women, children and young adults.** These numbers are from the government (Stats South Africa: 31 May 2006) – they have counted death certificates.

	Deaths in 1999	Deaths in 2004
*Children (0 to 4)	37,870	55,734
Adults (15 to 49)	154,591	276,260
Women	173,439	278,841
All deaths	381,000	567,000

\* Research shows that the deaths of children and infants are under-reported by nearly 100 000

Most of the extra deaths were in young adults. More people between the ages of 30 and 34 die than any other age group. **Only HIV explains these deaths in young people.**

According to the World Health Organisation and the South African government, **more than 800,000 people need ARVs now in South Africa.** The government claims to have given ARVs to 175,000 people.

#### WE NEED A HEALTH MINISTER – NOT CONFUSION.

Manto Tshabalala-Msimang is confusing the people. She makes people think that vegetables can be used to treat HIV instead of ARVs. She has said ARVs are poisons, but we know that thousands of people in the world are alive now because they are taking these medicines. Scientists and people with HIV all over the world agree that ARVs work!

#### GOVERNMENT BREAKS THE LAW – PEOPLE ARE DYING.

“Everyone who is detained, including every sentenced prisoner, has the right to conditions of detention that are consistent with human dignity, including at least, exercise and the provision at state expense of adequate accommodation, nutrition, reading materials and medical treatment”. *South African Constitution*

The government does not look after sick people in prison. The Judicial Inspector of Prisons is a judge who is meant to look after inmates. His report shows that **five times more inmates die now than died in 1995.** Most of the prisoners do not die in fights or in accidents. They die of diseases caused by HIV. Nearly 1 in 10 of these deaths were in Westville Prison in Durban where 2 prisoners die of AIDS every week.

Thousands of people in prison have HIV. Many need ARVs now. Last year TAC and 15 inmates in Westville Prison protested to government. In April this year they took the government to court because there were still no ARVs.

The court agreed with TAC and the inmates, and told government to give them ARVs immediately, and to develop a plan but the government has **still** not done this. **At the start of August, one of the 15 inmates died.** He should not have died. He became ill in 2004 and could have been given ARVs. He would not have died if government had been doing the right thing – if the government had respected the courts and the law.

Some people in prisons have done terrible things. They must fulfil their sentences. But they remain our brothers, fathers, uncles and sisters. The Constitution and the law says that they must receive health care. People in prison are not able to go to a clinic and get ARVs themselves. The only way they can get life-saving medicines is if the government provides them. The government has not done this – they have betrayed their duty.

**The government agreed to roll out ARVs in 2003. It has been 3 years. Too many people have died. We have had enough.**