

**From:** Kader Asmal <kasmal@uwc.ac.za>  
**Date:** Tue, 23 Jun 2009 16:47:25 +0200  
**To:** <wayzgoose@online.rednet.co.uk>  
**Subject:** British AAM 50th anniversary celebrations

My dear Christabel

I shall not be able to attend any of the functions organised to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement. Thank you for the information you have provided on the various activities.

June 26 has always been SA Freedom Day for thousands of people. I am delighted that the main function is a conference organised on that day. It is the day on which we celebrated the great victories of the liberation movement; it is also the day on which we dedicated ourselves, faced with the intransigence of South Africa's allies and collaborators (who were pusillanimously described as partners by the press) and the murderous violence of the apartheid regime.

The British AAM was not simply a body awakening the conscious of the British people; it was a lodestar for those outside Britain who set up similar bodies.

Your leadership was implicit, never browbeating, and never supercilious if we did not achieve your heights and never arrogant.

We were comrades, then.

We from South Africa salute all those involved in setting up the AAM, in maintaining it through good days and very bad days and celebrating with us on 27 April 1994 when we were free, free, free in our own country.

You stood by us. Many have died. Please remember this on 26 June.

There is a roll-call, not at the Cenotaph (because they did not use guns), but in our hearts. Please remember those actively involved in Britain.

Vella Pillay, Ros Ainslie, Mike Terry, Ronald Segal, Ethel de Keyser, Alan Brooks, Mary Benson, Sonia Bunting, Canon Collins, David, John and Martin Ennals, Bernie Grant, Joan Lestor, Denis Phombeah.

These were the men and women whom I knew personally. There were many more, like the West Indian cricketers, Tanzanian athletes, Nigerian boxers, Sydney dockers, Dunne's Store workers, who were inspired by the way the international community through the UN adopted the great campaigns of the British AAM.

Thank you for being there and for flying the flag of freedom for so long, when many others did not care.

I salute the heroines and heroes of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Yours ever

Kader