

PETER EDGE  
1189 OAKLEY AVENUE  
WINNETKA, ILLINOIS 60093

19 July, 1975

Dear Hilda -

While packing for our  
Trip To France Tomorrow,  
I by chance turned on  
your interview with  
Studs Terkel. I was  
impressed and moved!

Sincerely,

Peter Edge

5 Rothwell St,  
London, NW1 8YH

28th October 80

Enoch Wedgwood (Tunstall) Ltd,  
Staffordshire.

Can you please tell me where I can get  
replacements for your Kalahari tableware.  
I purchased it as a set from a colour  
supplement offer, and have broken a cup.

Hilda Bernstein

Date: 6th November, 1980

SPM/JC



Mrs. H. Bernstein  
5 Rothwell St.,  
London NW1 8YH

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter dated 28th October, with regard to a replacement Teacup in your "Kalahari" dinnerware.

We would advise that under normal circumstances our marketing arrangements preclude us from dealing direct with the general public. However, in this instance arrangements are being made to send you a free of charge replacement with our compliments which we hope will arrive safely.

Yours faithfully,  
For ENOCH WEDGWOOD (TUNSTALL) LTD.

S.P. Morris  
General Sales Manager



ENOCH WEDGWOOD (TUNSTALL) LTD

Registered office:  
Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire, England ST6 4JZ

Telephone:  
Stoke-on-Trent (0782) 84165 (5 lines)

Telegrams: ENWEDG STOKE-ON-TRENT  
Telex 36274 (ENWEDG G)

Registered No 66219

All Ware made by Enoch Wedgwood (Tunstall) Ltd., of Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent (Established circa 1835) should be resold as "Enoch Wedgwood (Tunstall) Ltd." and not merely "Wedgwood" which, when used by itself is the trade mark of Wedgwood Ltd.



★★★★ NN

HOTEL MONTALEMBERT

3, Rue de Montalembert  
(Bac - St-Germain - Raspail)  
75007 PARIS

Téléphone : 548.68-11  
(lignes groupées)  
Télégrammes :  
HOTEMONTAL - PARIS

Paris 8 March 81  
from Nawal El  
Saadawi

Dear Hilda,

Thank you for your letter dated  
17 Feb. I am now in Paris  
and will come to London on  
Wednesday 11 March. You can  
call me in my daughter's  
number in London 485-12-30  
after the 11<sup>th</sup> March, either early in  
the morning (8 o'clock) or  
at night (9 o'clock) - my  
daughter lives in Gloucester

LE DÉCAMÉRON · Bar · 222.58.19

Avenue  
→

43 c Flat 4 London NW1

I will stay with her from  
11<sup>th</sup> till 17<sup>th</sup> March. Then  
I will go back to Cairo.

Thank you for inviting me  
to stay in your house. I wish  
very much to see you in London  
this time. My daughter studies  
in London and she has a  
room where I can stay  
with her. I think she lives  
near you.

Best wishes and looking  
forward to seeing you  
Nawal El Saadawi

NAWAL EL SAADAWI  
25 MURAD street  
GIZA - EGYPT

4 Feb. 1981

Dear Hilda Bernstein,

Thank you very much for your letter of 18 Sept. 1980 which came to me only yesterday. Please note my address above, because I left my job with the UN in Beirut.

Thank you also for your book on women in South Africa. I am reading it and enjoying it very much. Please keep in touch and send me any other things you write or will write in the future. Please feel free to write to me any time. Your letter gave me pleasure and more courage to continue writing.

If you happen to come to Egypt I will be very glad to see you and talk to you. I may come to London during May to visit my daughter "Mona" who is studying there. In March I will be near London and may stop over for one or 2 days.

We will be meeting in the near future and have more chance to exchange on ideas  
best wishes and regards to  
Nawal

18th September 1980

Dear Nawal El Saadawi,

I obtained your address from Zed Press in London, and hope this will be forwarded to you if you are now in Egypt (They said you were on your way to the Kriek Conference, but I am assuming you will return soon.)

I am sending you a copy of a short book that I wrote about women under apartheid in South Africa. Although it is really inadequate, it achieved extensive circulation because it is up to now the only book of its kind. I think constantly about re-writing it as a deeper and more adequate book, but there are profound difficulties when you live away from your own country and cannot return.

Perhaps it is presumptuous for me to send you the book, and to write to you in this way, but when I had read *The Hidden Face of Eve* it seemed to me that of all the 'feminist' books I have been reading, yours most deeply fulfilled the needs of the majority of women in our world. Particularly in your preface to the English edition - which seem seemed to me a summary of the political basis of your outlook on the question of women's place, your views evoked the strongest response, summing up my own feelings and attitudes.

All that you say about the necessity for fundamental changes in society before progress can be made in women's status corresponds directly to our own experience, and that of the liberation movements in Southern Africa. However, there remain tremendous problems for women working for the national liberation of their own country, regarding the status of women within the liberation struggle itself. In this the experience of others would be of enormous assistance to people like myself. Impatience and understandable anger has caused me to alienate not just sections of the men, but many of the women, who feel themselves to be as threatened by the idea of developing a totally different status within the movement as the men do at the contemplation of women usurping their positions of power.

Once again, my apologies for writing to someone like yourself who must have more than enough to attend to, but I hope that you will find time to read the book.

With all good wishes

Hilda Bernstein



Ms. Hilda Bernstein  
5 Rothwell street  
London, NW1 8YH

بالبريد الجوي  
AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION

England



NAWAL EL SAADAWI  
25 HARAD Street  
Giza - Egypt.

5 Rothwell Street  
London, NW1 8YH

17th February 81

Dear Nawal,

I was happy to receive your letter. I am writing to you now to say that if you come to London and do not have any special accommodation, I have a spare room in my house which I would gladly put at your disposal.

Our house is situated close to the centre of London, near Regents Park, with direct transport. At present it is only myself and my husband, so you would not have unnecessary 'social' demands on your time or energie.s. You would be most welcome, either in March, or else in May when you visit your daughter - or both.

Please do regard this as an open invitation and do not hesitate to make use of it. It is in the African tradition rather than the English one!

With all good wishes

Hilda Bernstein

17.9.81



Dear Hilda,

I shall never forget you. You spread an atmosphere of life, culture and political mature consciousness around you which has impressed me deeply.

I hope that I shall

meet you again some time,

Bessie Head wrote me a letter expressing similar feelings. You had given her an afternoon which was quite unique -

I have sent your postcards yesterday in a cardboard tube - hope they will arrive safely. And then you forgot the cap for your camera-lens - here it is.

I hope you had a rewarding trip to the other places on your way home.

Life is very busy here, as I am still alone at the office - but next week all will be back to normal again. It is getting very hot all of a sudden, after a long winter (they had snow in Johannesburg last week !!)

Good-bye for now

With love

Ewa



Hilda Bernstein  
5, Rothwell Street  
London NW 1 8 YH  
E N G L A N D

DANISH ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION  
DANISH VOLUNTEER SERVICE

P.O. Box 367

Gaborone

Botswana

6th October 1981

Dear Eava,

Yesterday I posted to you two prints, one is for you and the other is for Pat Spann. I wanted to save postage which is so high, and thought you would not mind phoning Pat and that she could collect it from you.

I do hope that both of you like the prints I chose - Pat's to go with her flat, and the one for you because it was my tribute to women during the 1975 'Year of Women'. It simply tries to show the many roles that women are called on to play, and includes the earliest known sculpture of a woman, and the African fertility symbol.

It was very heart-warming to arrive home and receive your letter (yes, the posters also arrived safely). We all of us feel the need for some feed-back, we all of us have our vanities and love of self, though I comfort myself by thinking of Eric Fromm, who wrote in a book about loving that you can't love others until you have learned to love yourself. I feel very grateful and proud when I receive such a letter, and I treasure it, and your friendship.

I had a most interesting time after I left Gaborone. Lusaka is, as always, depressing to me, and there is even more tension among our people than in Botswana. But Maputo was wonderful. I stayed two weeks, saw quite a lot, and decided I will save and return next year to prepare for them a Mozambiquan Notebook of sketches and comments. I felt like a 'born-again' revolutionary. I also felt that I really knew what is meant by under-development - something that you can never really experience in South Africa, despite the Bantustans.

Coming back is difficult - too many tasks, too many things undertaken, interfering with my work. But I hope to get down to making pictures again very soon.

I am sorry I did not take a picture of you - why didn't I think of it? So you will have to come to London and stay with me here. I sent Bessie the book on women, and the Biko book (would you like that too?) and I have a beautiful photo of her which arrived this morning, and I will send her a copy.

ZOÉ EISENSTEIN  
32, HODFORD RD  
LONDON NW11 8NN  
(081) 458-5526.

20.2.92.

Dear Hilda Bernstein,

I am very grateful that you and your husband have agreed to complete my questionnaire.

I am at Kingsway college where, for my sociology 'A' Level, I have decided to do a project on South African exiles. I understand you have written a book on this subject, and I'll appreciate any help you'll be able to give me.

I'm glad you think you may be able to meet me at your daughters house in London. Judging by the phone number, it appears that she lives near me.

Thank-you for your help,

yours sincerely,

Zoë Eisenstein

To the Editor.

Sir,

It is difficult to react to a human situation when it is presented as a series of statistics. Yet to mark International Children's Day - June 1st - it is necessary to set a framework to understand the scale of what is happening to children in South Africa today.

At the beginning of this year it was estimated that of the 25,000 people detained under the State of Emergency declared the previous June, some 10,000 had been children, many as young as 11 years. In April of this year there were still 1424 children between the ages of 12 and 18 in detention.

Tens of thousands of children are held in police cells every year under normal criminal law, and are kept for unspecified periods which can run into many months. An further unknown number are in prison awaiting trial and serving sentences. In many cases bail is set so prohibitively high that they cannot be released into their parents' care. 'We have the case of five scholars, aged 15 to 17' states a recent Black Sash monitoring report, 'who were refused bail for almost three months in 1985, released without being charged and then detained again in 1986 and refused bail for a further 4 months "because of they are released they will start a boycott"'. The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adrian Vlok, stated that last year children held in police cells numbered 58,962.

'Life nowadays is like a sick butterfly. To many of us it is not worth living when it is like this . . . the little kids don't understand why they have been put in jail' says Bothale, aged 12, while 15-year-old Bathandina writes 'The situation in our townships is so disgusting that sometimes you ask yourself a question which has no answer, and that is 'why did god create a human being?'

Bear in mind that the State of Emergency indemnifies all members of the South African Defence Force against prosecution for acts committed 'in the course of their duties'. A virtual licence to kill and torture. And the killings are often random shootings.

Two children - one 7 years old - playing at a shopping centre near their homes, passed a crowd of youths who were singing freedom songs. They stood still when they saw police, who then fired at the standing children; the 7-year-old took the full impact, with 15 pellets removed from her body, and one still lodged near her heart.

A young student activist, Thomas, was in hiding for three months, then returned home because, he said, he was 'confident he had done nothing wrong.' The police came and found him - he offered no resistance to arrest, but they took him outside and shot him dead.

Children are shot on the way to and from school and during school breaks. No one can estimate how many have been killed this way, nor the numbers of those permanently crippled; or those who died from wounds because they are afraid to go to hospital, where they will be arrested. A doctor at a clinic in Alexandra Township (near Johannesburg) said he knew of children who cut out bullets themselves with penknives rather than come to the clinic, which had been raided by police, who took the medical records of people treated for gunshot wounds.

In detention children are systematically assaulted, beaten and tortured with the object of forcing them to sign statements incriminating themselves or others irrespective of whether the statements are true or not.

Affidavit after affidavit taken from released children describe similar experiences of beatings, of electric shock torture, of death threats, and there is evidence of rape of both girls and boys. The assaults and the use of electricity are widespread - common practice - but sometimes there are refinements, such as urinating into children's mouths, beating with elastic cord with metal hooks attached . . . and other, horrible catalogues of unlicensed brutality. Or should one say 'licensed'?

Child detainees are treated no differently from adults, kept with common criminals in cold, overcrowded cells, often of up to 40 persons. A 13-year-old, describing three months of detention with six others told how the seven of them had to share one plate of porridge for three meals a day. (The last meal in prison is often served at 2 p.m., the very latest time is 4.30.) 'We slept on the floor. Three had to share one mat. We were very cold. We were not given any change of clothing. I did not see my parents for 2 months. We had no books, magazines, or games at all'.

All children in the townships, states the Detainees Parents' Support Committee, suffer from constant exposure to terror, violence and disruption of family life.

Doctors and psychiatrists state they show deep depression after detention, feeling impotent, that life has lost its meaning, their senses devasted. Some sit motionless and silent for hours on end. Many fear to sleep for fear of police raids, and those who sleep wake screaming from nightmares and burst into uncontrollable sobbing. Many speak of suicide - some have done this - others suffer from paranoia and memory impairment, confusion, hallucinations and often complete withdrawal from any form of social life.

In that latter, then, the apartheid regime has succeeded in what they set out to do. But the extraordinary thing is that despite this catalogue of suffering and horror, many children appear even strengthened by their terrible experiences, emerging determined to continue their struggle. The DPSC concludes their report on the children with these words: One of the most amazing truths that has emerged for us is that the human spirit is incomparable. We have become aware of a time in our country that will not be stayed by a system of oppression.

'We must help each other as one nation,' writes a 13-year-old. 'There must be no hating because god likes to see his children loving one another.' 'After finding freedom we must be united with other nations and stop apartheid, writes another 13-year-old, 'We must love whites and they should like us in order to build a strong nation. Life is nothing without love.'

How can we help the children? What can be done? There are many ways in which people of this country can help. Please write to us if you want more information or suggestions about what you can do.

But ultimately the best help we can give is to exercise our ability to bring pressure through sanctions to end apartheid. Only in this way will it be possible to end the war against the children.



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