

Inventory of the Reverend Allan Boesak Collection

Papers (AB 000-01)

1962 – 2000



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Reverend Allan Boesak (1945 -)

Allan Aubrey Boesak was born on 23 February 1945 in Kakamas, Northern Cape, South Africa.

From 1970 to 1976 Rev Boesak studied at the Kampen Theological Institute in Holland, where he completed a doctorate on ethics. Returning to South Africa shortly after the 1976 Soweto uprisings, Boesak increased his political activities through the church. He became known as a liberation theologian, after the publication of his doctoral work, *Farewell to Innocence*, in 1976. He was elected President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in 1982, a position he held until 1991. Dr Boesak was inter alia an anti-apartheid activist, cleric and politician. He was jailed in May 2000 for a period of 36 months for fraud and theft. The case was heard before the Supreme Court of Appeal as well as the Constitutional Court and he was subsequently exonerated, granted an official pardon and reinstated as a cleric in late 2004.

He rose to prominence during the 1980s as an outspoken critic and opponent of the National Party's policies and played a major anti-apartheid activist role as a patron of the United Democratic Front (UDF) from 1983 to 1991.

He has written a book, *Running with Horses: Reflections of an Accidental Politician*, about his 30 years as an activist; it was published in 2009.

Reverend Allan Boesak Collection

1. Background

The former Technikon South Africa (TSA) received the donation of personal records of Dr Allan Boesak in 16 boxes on 30 August 2000. Dr Danny Titus (then Dean of Public Safety and Criminal Justice Department at TSA) acted as mediator in the process of obtaining the personal records.

The records in question were housed at the University of the Western Cape (Historical Research Institute & Mayibuye Centre) at that time. Dr Boesak gave permission for his records to be moved to the TSA Archives and Records Centre.

After the initial transfer of records, Dr Titus handed 4 files containing records pertaining to Dr Boesak's court case to the TSA Archives. During 2001 several records, including audio, audio-visual and photographs were added to the Collection.

The collection consists of correspondence, copies of various court cases, newspaper and magazine cuttings, photographs, memorabilia and audio and video cassettes containing speeches and sermons. It is, regrettably, a fragmented collection as some of his records were seized during the apartheid era, while others remain abroad.

TSA, Vista University and the University of South Africa (Unisa) merged in 2004 and the collection was transferred to the Unisa Archives on the Pretoria (Muckleneuk) campus.

Inventories, were created as each new donation was received.

2. Description of this collection (1.3 linear metres)

This collection consists of correspondence (original and copies), newspaper clippings and magazine articles. A distinction is made between the records transferred from the University of the Western Cape and the records handed to the Archives by Dr Titus. The records transferred from the University of the Western Cape are in fairly good condition (items 01 – 49). Facsimiles were replaced with photocopies. Where considered appropriate, photocopies were made of correspondence to facilitate cross-referencing.

These documents appear in Afrikaans, English, Dutch, French and German.

The records handed to the Archives by Dr Titus (items 50 – 69) have sustained smoke and water damage. This damage was caused by a fire at the Boesak residence in March 2000.

Item 70 (letter from Allan Boesak to Kader Asmal) was transferred electronically and printed and placed into a folder.

Annexure A consists of publications by Dr Boesak that were translated into Dutch and donated by Kairos Oecumenisch Advies- en Informatiecentrum Zuid Afrika.

Allan Boesak Collection – Documents (1.3 Im)

NAME OF OFFICE	Allan Boesak Collection	SOURCE CODE	AB 000-01
PERIOD COVERED BY RECORDS	DATE FROM : 1962 DATE TO : 2000	TYPE	Paper

File Ref	Vol	Name/ Description	Date from	Date to	Item nr	Box
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1970	2/02/1970	10/09/1970	000-01-01	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1971/1972	24/11/1971	22/12/1972	000-01-02	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1973	28/02/1973	27/12/1973	000-01-03	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1974	11/01/1974	6/11/1974	000-01-01	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1975	3/01/1975	31/12/1975	000-01-05	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1976	20/01/1976	5/07/1976	000-01-06	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1977	15/04/1977	16/11/1977	000-01-07	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1978/79/80	13/09/1978	26/08/1980	000-01-08	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1982 ¹	20/02/1982	12/11/1982	000-01-09	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence : Letters 1983/84	10/01/1983	26/12/1984	000-01-10	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence : Letters 1985	4/01/1985	22/12/1985	000-01-11	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence : Letters of support 1985	1985	1985	000-01-12	15-2-2
		Received Correspondence : Letters 1986	9/01/1986	16/09/1986	000-01-13	15-2-2
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1970	2/02/1970	10/09/1970	000-01-01	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence: Letters 1971/1972	24/11/1971	22/12/1972	000-01-02	15-2-1
		Received Correspondence : Letters 1987	9/03/1987	24/03/1987	000-01-14	15-2-2
		Received Correspondence : Telegrams ²	20/08/1982	13/10/1982	000-01-15	15-2-2
		Received Correspondence : Telegrams (Copies)	13/2/1985	27/08/1985	000-01-16	15-2-2
		Received Correspondence : Post cards ³	1985	1985	000-01-17	15-2-2
		Received Correspondence : Greeting cards	n.d.	n.d.	00-01-18	15-2-3
		Received Correspondence : Miscellaneous (post cards, greeting cards, telegrams)	1982	04/1987	000-01-19	15-2-3
		Received Correspondence : Post cards, greeting cards	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-20	15-2-3
		Miscellaneous Correspondence : Received and Outgoing letters	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-21	15-2-3
		Copies of Outgoing Correspondence 1969 – 1985	30/10/1969	29/08/1985	000-01-22	15-2-3
		Pro Veritate ⁴	1962	1964	000-01-23	15-2-4
	1	Newspaper Cuttings (national & international) ⁵	1970	1982	000-01-24	15-2-4
	2	Newspaper Cuttings (national & international)				
		Passport & Photograph : Dr Boesak	1986	1986	000-01-26	15-2-5
	1	Dutch Reformed Mission Church, Bellville ⁶	31/01/1982	1986	000-01-27	15-2-5
	2	Dutch Reformed Mission Church, Bellville	n.d	n.d	000-01-28	15-2-5
	3	Dutch Reformed Mission Church, Bellville	1970	24/04/1986	000-01-29	15-2-5
		Collection of sermons – A. Boesak	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-30	15-2-5
		Sinode van die NG Sendingkerk te Belhar	1986	1986	000-01-31	15-2-6
		NGSK Kerkorde	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-32	15-2-6
		NGSK Gemeentes : Diverse Dokumente	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-33	15-2-6
		Akte van Toelating as leraar van NGSK	30/11/1967	30/11/1967	000-01-34	15-2-6

¹ Includes letters of criticism against Dr Boesak

² Contains congratulations on Dr Boesak's election as president of World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC)

³ Printed post cards of solidarity from Blue Ridge Presbytery, Virginia, USA

⁴ Christian monthly magazine for Southern Africa. The editor was CFB Naudé. Not a comprehensive collection.

⁵ Includes church pamphlets. Most cuttings undated and source not indicated.

⁶ Contains agendas, minutes and general correspondence

File Ref	Vol	Name/ Description	Date from	Date to	Item nr	Box
		Curriculum Vitae : Allan Aubrey Boesak	31/03/1990	31/03/1990	000-01-35	15-2-6
		Foundation for Peace and Justice : Reports 1987/88, Notarial Deed of Trust	1984	1988	000-01-36	15-2-7
		Articles pertaining to Politics and Religion in South Africa	1977	1978	000-01-37	15-2-7
		Speeches, Statements and Declarations	4/09/1973	16/06/1984	000-01-38	15-2-7
		Student symposium: Martin Luther King, jr.	04/1973	04/1973	000-01-39	15-2-7
		Collected papers/talks	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-40	15-2-8
		Supreme Court Case	11/1985	11/1985	000-01-41	15-2-8
		Diary : Alan Boesak	1978	1978	000-01-42	15-2-8
		Miscellaneous Minutes	26/06/1974	10/1983	000-01-43	15-2-9
		Programmes, pamphlets, magazines ⁷	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-44	15-2-9
		Drawings by children	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-45	15-2-9
	1	Diverse documents	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-46	15-2-9
	2	Diverse documents	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-47	15-2-10
	3	Diverse documents	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-48	15-2-10
	4	Diverse documents	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-49	15-2-10
	1	Correspondence regarding lectures, conferences	1984	1986	000-01-50	15-2-11
	2	Correspondence regarding lectures, conferences	1987	1987	000-01-51	15-2-11
	3	Correspondence regarding lectures, conferences	1988	1988	000-01-52	15-2-11
	4	Correspondence regarding lectures, conferences	1989	1989	000-01-53	15-2-11
	5	Correspondence regarding lectures, conferences	1990	1990	000-01-54	15-2-11
	6	Correspondence regarding lectures, conferences	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-55	15-2-11
		Copies of reports, correspondence pertaining to the period that Dr Boesak was director of the Foundation for Peace and Justice (FPJ)	1987	1998	000-01-56	15-2-11
		Documents pertaining to FPJ	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-57	15-2-11
		Repression Dossier ⁸	1989	1991	000-01-58	15-2-11
		State vs Allan Boesak : Loan account with FPJ	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-59	15-2-11
		Correspondence, Statements and Reports pertaining to the Court case ⁹	1992	1997	000-01-60	15-2-11
		Newspaper and magazine reports relating to the alleged misappropriation of funds by Dr Boesak	1991	1997	000-01-61	15-2-11
		Case 105/99 in the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa between Allan Aubrey Boesak and the State	2000	2000	000-01-62	15-3-1
		Case 25/2000 in the Constitutional Court of South Africa between Allan Aubrey Boesak and the State	2000	2000	000-01-63	15-3-1
		Untitled manuscript (Chapters 1 – 8)	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-64	15-3-1
		Newspaper Reports regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC)	c.1998	c.1998	000-01-65	15-3-2
		Transcription of an Interview between Pat O' Malley and Dr Boesak	12/01/1993	12/01/1993	000-01-66	15-3-2
		Notes of Sermons delivered by Dr Boesak	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-67	15-3-2
		"Between the Cracks" Draft outline for a documentary on the disappearance of Renate Ismael	n.d.	n.d.	000-01-68	15-3-2
		Christian Brother's College Awards to Sarah-Len Boesak	1998	1998	000-01-69	15-3-2
		Letter from Dr Boesak to Prof Kader Asmal, minister of Education re. Christians/religion	23/04/2001		000-01-70	15-3-2

⁷ Contains magazines like SA Outlook, Deurbraak. Of historical interest also a pamphlet of the National launch of UDF 20/08/1985 in Cape Town and a pamphlet Facing Prison – a handbook for conscientious objectors

⁸ Photocopies of a pamphlet distributed by FPJ. Not a comprehensive collection.

⁹ Bell, Dewar & Hall, Gumbi report, DanChurchAid

ANNEXURE A PUBLICATIONS

Description	Remarks
Boesak, A. Troost en protest. Reflecties op de Openbaring van Johannes. Ten Have, 1987	The original English title for this is: Comfort and Protest.
Boesak, A. Als dit verraad is ben ik schuldig. Ten Have/Baarn, 1986	.
Rothe, S. Kerken in Zuid-Afrika met een inleiding van Allan Boesak. Ten Have/Baarn, 1989.	The original German title is: Kirchen in Südafrika
Boesak, A. The Radical Question. Kairos, 1987.	Sermon by Dr Boesak held in the Eben Haezer Church in Atlanta, Georgia
Boesak, A. Tot sterwens toe....Liefdesgedigte en tralies	

AVDW/8/INVENTORY AB 000-01