



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Dennis Brutus papers**

1970-1990

Sc MG 289

## Summary

**Creator:** Brutus, Dennis, 1924-2009

**Title:** Dennis Brutus papers

**Date:** 1970-1990

**Size:** 25.87 linear feet (28 boxes)

**Source:** Purchased from Dennis Brutus, 1989-1991.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** Dennis Brutus was a South African-born poet and human rights activist who spearheaded a successful campaign to ban apartheid South Africa from international sport competitions. The collection consists of personal and professional papers, correspondence, writings, files of SAN-ROC and the Dennis Brutus Defense Committee, and subject files.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Boxes 22-26 closed until processed.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Dennis Brutus papers, Sc MG 289, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Accessioned by Andre Elizee, 1998.

### Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: posters.

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio and moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

## **Creator History**

Born in 1924, Dennis Brutus was a South African-born poet and human rights activist who spearheaded a successful campaign to ban apartheid South Africa from international sport competitions. He founded the South African Sports Association in 1961, and the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SAN-ROC) in 1963. He was subsequently arrested and jailed, placed under house arrest, and banned from all literary, academic, and political activities. He went into exile in 1966 and moved to the United States in 1970, emerging over the years as a prominent lecturer and author, a professor of African literature, and a major spokesperson in the international movement to end apartheid in South Africa. He was granted political asylum in the United States in 1980.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of personal and professional papers; correspondence; writings; files of SAN-ROC and the Dennis Brutus Defense Committee; anti-apartheid posters; and subject files on Nelson Mandela, human rights, South African politics, divestment, apartheid and sports, African literature, and the struggle against apartheid in general. Also included are conference and symposium papers on apartheid; materials of the Dennis Brutus Defense Committee, the United Nations Centre Against Apartheid and the South African Council on Sports (SACOS); and printed matter.

**Arrangement:** Arranged according to accession dates, so subjects ("Teaching materials"; "DBDC") appear multiple times throughout the finding aid.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Anti-apartheid movements -- South Africa  
Apartheid  
Apartheid -- South Africa  
Blacks -- South Africa  
Discrimination in sports -- South Africa  
Human rights workers  
Race discrimination -- South Africa  
South African poetry (English)

### **Geographic Names**

South Africa -- Race relations

### **Names**

Brutus, Dennis, 1924-2009  
Mandela, Nelson, 1918-2013  
Dennis Brutus Defense Committee  
South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee  
United Nations Centre Against Apartheid

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  - b. 1 f. 7 Interviews
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- b. 4 f. 12 Northwestern University Midwest Conference on University and Corporate Involvement in South Africa 1978 October 20-22
- b. 4 f. 13 Northwestern University National Week of Action 1979 April 4-11
- b. 4 f. 14 "Sell the South African Stock: The Divestiture Struggle at Northwestern University", Chicago Committee for a Free South Africa 1978 October

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- b. 10 f. 16 U.N. references to apartheid sports
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- b. 10 f. 27 Mohamed, Abdul Jan. Introduction
- b. 10 f. 28-29 Review materials
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- b. 10 f. 32 *Unbanning notices for A Simple Lust and Stubborn Hope*
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- b. 11 f. 8 "Decolonizing African Literature Materials and Afro Oral Art Materials"
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- b. 11 f. 10 *Chinweizu, Onusheka J. and Ihechukwu Madubuike. Toward the Decolonization of African Literature* 1983
- b. 11 f. 11 South African literature
- b. 11 f. 12 *Serote, Mongane. The Night Keeps Winking*
- b. 11 f. 13 *Madingoane, Ingoapele. Excerpts from Africa, My Beginning*



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- b. 11 f. 14 *Bigelow, Bill. Strangers in Their Own Country*
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- b. 11 f. 16 *Berkley, Cecil. Soweto, Soweto*
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1989
- b. 21 f. 16 African National Congress
- b. 21 f. 17 Action Against Apartheid Sport
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- b. 21 f. 19-20 SACOS Biennial meeting and report 1989 March
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  - b. 21 f. 26 Clippings and press releases on South African sports
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This material includes additional correspondence; subject files relating to South Africa and the release of Nelson Mandela from prison; writings by Dennis Brutus; research material; and printed matter.

Closed until processed.

- b. 27 *Weekly Mail* newspaper
- b. 28 Certificates and other oversize material