

our lack of experience or knowledge about relief work we felt that giving money was not enough, rather human power and action was needed, and with a group of about 5 dedicated people we have run a relief operation that's been unbelievable. We have also built up a lot of goodwill through our work in Crossroads. We are at present running a self aid programme at the refugee centre.

But Jews for Justice should not be taking on the role that the Jewish Board of Deputies should be involved in.

In this present State of Emergency there have been three Jewish detainees in Cape Town. J.F.J. made contact with the families and offered support, but did the Board, whose role it should be to support and aid the families? Did the Board even know about them, one being a 17 year old schoolgirl.

So what should be the Jewish response to South Africa 1986. We should be more vocal but also more active in aiding those people who have suffered most. We must not only give money, but also go out and see for ourselves the reality of the situation. A trip to Crossroads and the refugee centre can be an enlightening experience. We need to try and make ourselves more informed by reading alternative newspapers and speaking to people and not only relying on the Bureau of Information and SABC/TV for news. We should be joining in and pressurizing the Government to unban political organisations, release detainees and political prisoners and come to the negotiating table with the real leaders of the people of South Africa. But we can no longer stand by and be silent participants and perpetrators of atrocities - because of our peculiar history and our Judaism we must take a stand and secure our future.