

# Steve Biko



\*18 December 1946

+13 September 1977

# Biko's life

- 18 December 1946 in King Williams Town
- mother worked as a cleaning lady for a white family
- father was a office worker for the government -> died when Steve was four years old

- 1952 Biko started school
- 1953 Public Education Act was passed
- 1963 Biko and his brother were arrested -> Biko got out of prison after a few days
- 1964 he got a scholarship for the private Roman Catholic school
- 1966 Biko started to study medicine at University of Natal Medical School  
-> joined NUSAS

# NUSAS

- National Union of South African Students
- fought for non-racism and non-sexcism
- founded in 1924

# Bikos life

- Biko recognised that NUSAS had another ideology
- 1968 he founded the SASO and became their first president

# SASO

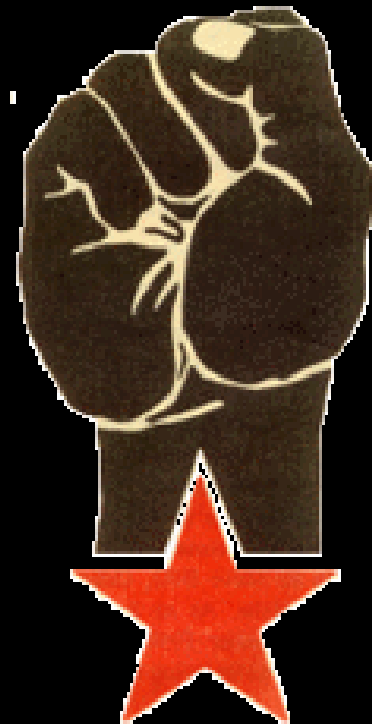
- South African Students Organisation
- an organisation just for black people -> Africans, Coloureds, Indians
- black people should be more self confident
- wanted to change the peoples view about racial segregation
- Non- violent fight against the Apartheid regime

# Bikos life

- Biko recognised that NUSAS had another ideology
- 1968 he founded the SASO and became its first president
- 1969 Biko founded the BCM

# BCM

- Black Consciousness Movement
- is a part of the SASO
- wanted new generation of coloured people
- first campaign:  
"Black man you are on your own!"
- later:  
"Black is beautiful!"





# Bikos dream

- to get the coloured people ready to stand up against the Apartheid regime
- integration of the coloured people in the white society

# Bikos life

- early 70's the SASO was one of the leading organisations
- 1972 Biko became honorary president of the BPC (Black Peoples Convention)
  - > belonged to the SASO and BCM but was a non student organisation

- 1973 Biko was banned
  - > he was not allowed to speak to more than one person at the same time
- in the following years Biko was arrested from time to time
- 1975 Biko was not allowed to involve himself in politics
- 1976 climax was reached -> fatal fight between police and students

# Bikos death

- 18.8.1977 Biko was arrested
  - > because he tried to escape out of SA
- the first twenty days he was left naked and chained to the bedpost
- at the interrogation he was beaten up by the police

- after three weeks Biko was badly injured
- it wasn't allowed to sent him to a local hospital
  - > because of security reasons
- Biko was sent to Pretoria Prison 750 miles without medical attention and still naked
- 13.9.1977      he died because of his bad head injuries

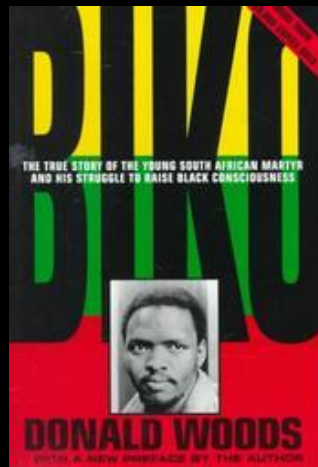
# After Biko's death

- the government said that biko died because of an extremely hunger strike
- but official investigations (afforded by Donald Woods) showed the truth



# Donald Woods

- was a white friend of Steve Biko
- a journalist who supported Biko
- he wrote a book about Bikos speeches, ideology, personality, life and death



# Biko's private life

- loved life and its good things
- he had a good sense of humour, was full of charme, gentle and a kind of a womanizer
- he had a wife and three children
- just before his death he wrote a letter to his family:



"I've devoted my life to see equality for blacks, and at the same time, I've denied the needs of my family. Please understand that I take these actions, not out of selfishness or arrogance, but to preserve a South Africa worth living in for blacks and whites."

# Effects of his death

- at his funeral were a lot of ambassadors and diplomats from the United States and Western Europe
- all organisations which belonged to the BCM were banned
- > but they continued from the underground

- a new generation of activists grew up
- 1994 the Apartheid regime ended  
-> the ANC won the election

# Biko today

- his fight is still going on
  - > in the minds of many whites the black people are still not equal
- 1997 Nelson Mandela built up a statue of Biko in Pretoria



# Biko by Peter Gabriel

September '77

Port Elizabeth weather fine

It was business as usual

In police room 619

Oh Biko, Biko, because Biko

Oh Biko, Biko, because Biko

Yihla Moja, Yihla Moja

-The man is dead

When I try to sleep at night  
I can only dream in red  
The outside world is black and white  
With only one colour dead

Oh Biko, Biko, because Biko  
Oh Biko, Biko, because Biko  
Yihla Moja, Yihla Moja  
-The man is dead

You can blow out a candle  
But you can't blow out a fire  
Once the flames begin to catch  
The wind will blow it higher

Oh Biko, Biko, because Biko  
Yihla Moja, Yihla Moja  
-The man is dead

And the eyes of the world are  
watching now  
watching now

What do you think?



# Sources:

- [wikipedia.de](http://wikipedia.de)
- <http://africanhistory.about.com/library/biographies/blbio-stevebiko.htm>
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/37448.stm>
- Other sites from the internet

By  
Laura Paustian,  
Steven Sander  
and  
Rieke Fischer