

FILMS UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES



"YOU HAVE STRUCK A ROCK!"

16mm colour, 28 minutes

"You have touched a woman, you have struck a rock!" is an echo from 1956 when 20,000 women occupied Union Buildings, the seat of the all-white South African government, to protest against the issuing of Passes to Black women. More than 40 years before, the government had first attempted to bring women into the Pass system which controls the labour and lives of Black men. It met then with such fierce resistance that no further attempt was made until the 1950's, when the present Nationalist government was consolidating its policy of Apartheid. This film, using a collage of rare photographs and newsreel footage, and recent interviews with some of the women actively involved, recreates the women's campaigns, spanning more than a decade, against one of the most basic and iniquitous of Apartheid's laws.

Producer	Deborah May
Narrator	Letta Mbulu
Photography	Georgina Karvellas Cliff Bestall
Written by	Deborah May Diana Boernstein
Edited by	Deborah May Georgina Karvellas
Music	Joshua Sklair

A co-production by Deborah May and the United Nations

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