

## Steve Biko - Black Consciousness-

### Definition:

- realization of the urgent need to “wake up the masses”
- to respond not just the needs of wishes
- speak out against racial discrimination & segregation

### Black Consciousness Movement ( BCM)

- violent events in the 1960s caused the development of the movement in the 1970s
- turning point was the Sharpeville Massacre on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1960
- consequence: ANC & PNC leaders were banned
  - > first vacuum
- Steve Biko formed the idea of Black Consciousness
- aims: - connect all black groups in solidarity
  - liberation and independence from white control
  - fight against suppression
- highlight was the Soweto Uprising on June 16<sup>th</sup> 1976
  - > hundreds of killed teenagers
- imprisonment and death of Biko caused second vacuum
- black population of South Africa is still inspired although most BCM related groups were prohibited > foundation of new black organizations



### Steve Biko

- one of South Africa's most famous political activists
- founder of the BCM
- born on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1946 in King William's Town (Eastern Cape)
- before political interests he was a medical student
- founded his own students organization for blacks only
- he founded a few more organizations and became the leader
- banned by Apartheid government
- August 21<sup>st</sup> 1977 detained under the section of terrorism act
- transported to Prison in Port Elizabeth
- often interrogated, starved and brutally beaten
- interrogation on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September'77 nearly killed Biko
- transported to a hospital in Pretoria
  - > transport under inhuman circumstances
- Biko died on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September'77 because of a brain damage

### Conclusion:

- Biko was inspiration > blacks should be proud to be blacks
- led to fight inequality
- helped to reach the end of apartheid

Sources: <http://www.sahistory.org.za/pages/governance-projects/black-consciousness/biko/biko-frameset.htm>  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/12/newsid\\_3573000/3573054.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/12/newsid_3573000/3573054.stm)  
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