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## Newsday.com

## NY judge rules in favor of victims of apartheid

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**NEW YORK** 

A judge has ruled that lawsuits brought by victims accusing automakers and IBM of supporting apartheid in South Africa can go to trial.

Judge Shira Scheindlin dismissed defense arguments that allowing the suits to go to trial might affect relations between the U.S. and South Africa.

The ruling Wednesday came in federal cases from 2002 and 3003 on behalf of victims of apartheid in the 1970s and '80s.

The defendants are IBM Corp., German automaker Daimler A.G., Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and Rheinmetall Group A.G., a Swiss parent company of an armaments maker.

The plaintiffs alleged the automakers supplied military vehicles that let securities forces suppress black South Africans. IBM was accused of providing equipment that let South Africa track dissidents and target individuals.

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