

Book to memorialize Ahmed Timol's death

IN a moving ceremony on 29 March 1999, former President Nelson Mandela delivered the keynote address and officially re-named the Azadville Secondary School in honour of Ahmed Timol who died in police detention in 1971.

Timol was a student of the Johannesburg Indian High School and after qualifying as a teacher at the Transvaal Indian College in 1961, taught at Roodepoort Indian High School.

On 27 October 1971, five days after his arrest,

Timol was reportedly killed when he accidentally fell to his death from the 10th floor window of the John Vorster Square Police Station.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of his death, Timol's nephew, Imtiaz has embarked on providing in literary form, the early days, family life and the events which saw him enter the political resistance era as well as the period shortly before his untimely death.

The state propaganda machines cover up tactics saw them evade crucial issues and aspects that led to

his detention, torture and death. Even the trial provided nothing of substance and Timol's ultimate sacrifice, like many before him was declared a suicide.

The Truth and Reconciliation hearings in April 1996 finally brought to light some of the events and circumstances surrounding the young teacher's death.

Timol's ailing mother, Hawa, now late, told the hearings about the suffering, humiliation, insults and torment the family endured before and after her son's death.

Imtiaz Timol has already gathered some truly fascinating material and untold stories. The book is presently in its planning stages. In order to miss and not to omit vital information that could be included in the book, Timol appeals to former colleagues, friends, students, family and community members to forward their material or stories (however mundane or insignificant you might feel it could be) to him.

"The intention is not to complicate matters but rather to enlighten the old and new generation about heroes from within the



Ahmed Timol who died in police detention in 1971

community who gave their lives for our liberation."

"Their stories must find a place and be recorded, recognised and judged by history. After all, Ahmed paid the ultimate price," he said.

The book is also intended to reach most local and foreign libraries and it is hoped that the project could find its way into school set-works.

The biography is set to be published in October to coincide with Timol's 30th death anniversary.

For more info, or if you would like to make a contribution contact Imtiaz Timol on (012) 998-8819 or 082-479-5888 or timol_hero@hotmail.com. You could also write to PO Box 1888, Garsfontein East 0060.