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MPs demand inquiry into Johannesburg death fall

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Demands for an inquiry into Mr Timol's death have been quick in coming from South Africans opposed to the Government. Mr S. J. Marais Steyn, MP, official spokesman of the opposition United Party in the Transvaal, said it was "absolutely dreadful" and called for an immediate judicial inquiry.

Mrs Helen Suzman, the Johannesburg MP who is the sole representative of the anti-apartheid Progressive Party in Parliament, also demanded an inquiry. "This type of law, which allows people to be detained without trial, must lend itself to the most dangerous practices", she said. "I think it is absolutely appalling that things like this can happen in South Africa."

The whole issue of detention without trial under the security laws has been very much in the news lately because an Anglican priest fasted for 67 days in protest against the death in police custody of the Cape Muslim leader, the Imam Abdullah Haron, two years ago.

The priest, the Rev Bernard Wankmore, ended his fast at the weekend almost at the very moment the security police were making their nationwide raids

on the intellectuals' homes, resulting in the detention of Mr Timol and the eight others.

Apart from these nine detainees, of whom two are women, it was learnt tonight that at least another eight people are in the police hands as a result of the raids.

Mr Timol is understood to have been driving a car stopped by police outside a cemetery in Johannesburg on Friday and later alleged to have contained political leaflets.

Johannesburg, Oct 28.—Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of the imprisoned former African Nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, was today sentenced to a suspended six-month jail term for breaking a banning order. She pleaded guilty to communicating with Mr Peter Magubane, a photographer for the liberal Johannesburg *Rand Daily Mail*, who is similarly banned.

Mrs Mandela told the court that she had met Mr Magubane in Fraser Street, Johannesburg, on September 1 after leaving a magistrates' court, where she had gone for a permit to visit her husband in the Robben Island penal colony. She found that her two children had disappeared. "I was frantic about the children, and asked him if he knew where they were", she said.—Reuter.

Detained man plunges ten storeys to his death in Johannesburg

From Dan van der Vat Cape Town, Oct 28

One of the nine people detained incommunicado by the South African security police in last weekend's nationwide raids on intellectuals has died in police custody and another is in hospital with an unspecified illness, it was officially confirmed today.

The man who died was Mr Ahmed Timol, aged 30, an Indian schoolmaster, of Roodepoort, Transvaal. The sick man is also an Indian, Mr Muhammad Essop, aged 21, a student at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Today he was transferred from a general hospital in Pretoria to a prison hospital.

Confirming Mr Timol's death, Police Brigadier P. Kruger said: "It is true. He jumped from the tenth floor of John Vorster Square (Johannesburg's main police station) at 4 pm. He committed suicide."

A postmortem examination is to be carried out on Mr Timol tomorrow, probably with an independent pathologist present. An inquest will be held later.

Mr Timol's death in detention under South Africa's security laws is the seventeenth such death in the past 10 years, six of which were officially found to be suicides.

If his death is found to be suicide by jumping out of a window, it will be the second such death on record. In 1964 another Indian, Mr Suliman Saloojee, plunged to his death

from the seventh floor of the old Johannesburg police headquarters in Grays Building after days of interrogation by the security police. Bars were later installed on the windows of that floor.

Before Mr Essop was transferred to the prison hospital today, a spokesman at the general hospital from which he was moved said he was "in good shape." He refused to say when Mr Essop was admitted or what was wrong with him.

The police said: "In view of the serious nature of the matter now being investigated by the security police, with which Essop is alleged and suspected to be connected, he will not be allowed to receive visitors."

Of the seven other men known to be in indefinite detention after the weekend's raids on the homes of 105 intellectuals in seven cities, six are Indians and one is a white man. None has yet been charged or appeared in court.

The police have now imposed what today's South African newspapers describe as a "blanket blackout" on the circumstances surrounding Mr Timol's death. It has, however, been established that his body was found yesterday some 100ft below a window in the security police section of John Vorster Square.

Police who visited Mr Timol's parents told them he had jumped through a window on the tenth floor and that the police in the room at the time had tried to prevent him.

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