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# Detention death: Helen calls for investigation

**SOUTH AFRICA'S** shares are rock bottom today," was Mrs. Helen Suzman's comment on the latest death in security police detention.

"We can write off the 'outward policy' as long as such things happen," the Progressive Party's Member of Parliament for Houghton said.

Suzman said. "I have opposed every one of these laws because it was obvious that if the police were given unfettered powers to detain and interrogate people in solitary confinement, there would be no limit to the abuses that could take place under such conditions."

"By this I do not mean an inter-departmental investigation. We don't want another shelved dossier as in the case of the Imam Addulah Haron and others."

"It is high time that South African citizens demanded that these laws be repealed and that we can return to the normal process of the law."



Mrs. Helen Suzman, MP for Houghton, has called for an investigation into the death of Mr. Ahmed Timol, who jumped to his death from the 10th floor of Johannesburg's John Vorster Square.

## Church repeat call for inquiry

LEADING Johannesburg churchmen have reiterated their call for a judicial inquiry into deaths of police detainees. They expressed shock and amazement at news that an Indian detainee had fallen to his death from a 10th floor office at John Vorster Square.

Their call comes less than a fortnight after the initiative taken by the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the most Rev. R Selby Taylor, whose statement that such an inquiry was necessary to reassure the public made front-page news and provoked expressions of solidarity from churches and churchmen throughout the country.

The Anglican Suffragan Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt. Rev. John Carter, said that "This death simply reinforces the growing public demand for a judicial inquiry into the methods of the security police."

## Vorster speaks out on security

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regrettably commit suicide or die as a result of natural causes.

"The police have strict orders to act within the provisions of the law. Despite extreme provocation and considering the seriousness of the matter, they do so."

"The police have proved abundantly that they do not hesitate to act against any member of the force who makes himself guilty of any contravention.

"The public must take note

of the fact that our enemies will, in the time ahead, attempt to undermine us with greater hatred and venom than ever before. Between them and our safety stands the police.

**PROCEDURE**

"The procedure prescribed by law in the case of death, whether it occurs in police custody or otherwise, have always been complied with and will in future be complied with.

"I therefore find no necessity for appointing a special judicial commission to investigate any particular case.

"As soon as the investigations have been completed the relevant documents will be submitted to the Attorney-General for further action," the Prime Minister said.