

Box 1138, Johannesburg

UP holding protest meeting

# Suzman: Repeal Terror Act

By BERNARDI WESSELS  
Political Correspondent

**MRS. HELEN SUZMAN, Progressive Party MP for Houghton, yesterday demanded that the Terrorism Act "be struck off the Statute Book".**

At the same time, academics, politicians, Coloured leaders, clergymen, lawyers and a leading Afrikaner writer came out in full support for the call demanding that the Act be revised or repealed.

Mrs. Suzman said the Act should be struck off the Statute Book "because no amendment to Section Six will prevent abuses of powers given to police to hold people in solitary confinement."

When the 90-Day Detention Act was enforced and magistrates were required to visit detainees, it "in no way prevented suicides and deaths under strange circumstances".

She added that she had opposed the Act, unlike the United Party, at every stage of its passage through Parliament, because it was obvious even at that time that such powers would be abused.

"All those laws that give Ministers or the police the right to deprive a man of his liberty before he has been duly charged in a court of law, found guilty and convicted, must be repealed," Mrs. Suz-

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By CLIVE EMDON

MR. YUSUF TIMOL, father of the dead detainee, Mr. Ahmed Timol, made a statement yesterday to Major-General C. A. Buys, the Chief of the CID, who is investigating the circumstances of the death at John Vorster Square, Johannesburg, last Wednesday.

Mr. M. S. H. Cachalia, the father's lawyer said Maj-Gen. Buys had asked for the statement. The investigation is expected to be completed this week.

Meanwhile, it is known that 19 persons are still being detained in terms of the Terrorism Act in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban. None has access to lawyers or family.

Yesterday, Mr. Sam Garda, brother of the 32-year-old detainee, Mr. Yusuf "Chubb" Garda, confirmed that he had spoken to his brother by telephone early one morning.

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This has been the only known case of direct communication between a detainee and his family in the past 10 days since the first arrests.

Police have, however, allowed Mr. Yusuf Garda and Dr. M. Momoniat — who has since been released — to answer written questions put to them by their families.

In their replies, Mr. Garda gave instructions on the running of his schoolwear business and Dr. Momoniat on his medical practice.

Each night in the past week between 40 and 50 people have gathered to pray at the Gardas' Vrededorp, Johannesburg, flat.

Mr. Sam Garda said he spoke to his brother on the telephone at 6.15 am last Thursday. Until that time, the family had been allowed to take him food every day.

His brother had told him that he was fine.

"For the past four days they have refused to take food from the family to him," Mr. Garda said.

Mr. Garda said he was told by a senior Security Police officer that he should have known by last Thursday whether his brother would be released or put on trial. "We have heard nothing since."

Mrs. Suzman said the Act should be struck off the Statute Book "because no amendment to Section Six will prevent abuses of powers given to police to hold people in solitary confinement."

When the 90-Day Detention Act was enforced and magistrates were required to visit detainees, it "in no way prevented suicides and deaths under strange circumstances".

She added that she had opposed the Act, unlike the United Party, at every stage of its passage through Parliament, because it was obvious even at that time that such powers would be abused.

"All those laws that give Ministers or the police the right to deprive a man of his liberty before he has been duly charged in a court of law, found guilty and convicted, must be repealed," Mrs. Suzman said.

Parliament had made a "parlous mistake" in giving these vast powers. It was a tragedy that the official Opposition did not see fit to oppose these laws in principle when they were first introduced.

"I have no doubt that this gave the Government the green light to go full steam ahead in using its full power to detain people without trial," she said.

The United Party has already organised a public protest meeting in the Johannesburg City Hall on Friday at midday. And there are indications that students of the University of the Witwatersrand are planning a mass protest meeting on the campus.

Professor Barend van Niekerk of the University of Natal's Law Department, said this Terrorism Act was the "antithesis of justice" and appealed to the legal fraternity "to kill the Act by refusing to accept evidence obtained under its provisions".

He added that it was "a vicious bit of medievalism and its application constituted a complete abdication of justice."