

# MOTHER SHARES ANGUISH OF THE TIMOL FAMILY

THE STAR, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1971

I AM a mother and as such can share the anguish of Mrs Timol. Her anguish must have been shared by thousands of mothers in Nazi Germany. It is happening here and most of us are too afraid to do anything about it.

Thank God our newspapers are not muffled and have had the courage to speak out. Now a petition deploring authoritarian methods should be prepared.

The Government is abusing the trust placed in its hands by the people of this country. It was never intended that people be held without trial or banished because they had the courage to open their mouths.

This could be a beautiful, happy land, but now it is filled with misgiving because of unjust laws. The result is despondency, suspicion and fear.

No wonder we are cast out by the rest of the world. And this country is supposed to be ruled by Christians!

Germiston Mother



HOW dare the Prime Minister infer that the death of a detainee is none of our business? And it is wrong to suggest that we do not deplore the deaths of policemen on our borders. That is a smokescreen that will not serve.

Mr Vorster should realise that he is a public servant and as such answerable to the people, including the English-speaking section.

Humanity, even as it was known at the beginning of Nationalist rule, has gone.

If a new motto were needed for our flag or coat of arms, nothing could be more appropriate than "Abandon Hope All Ye Who Enter Here."

Florida.

True South African



CERTAINLY it is very worthy and brave of Graham Flax to fast for a portion of Ramadan in protest against the death of a detainee (The Star, November 2). But somehow I feel that his righteous indignation is rather selective and circumscribed.

I don't recall him advertising his intention to fast in protest at the recent terrorist murder of an Afrikaans policeman. Will he fast when a terrorist bomb explodes in the Johannesburg station or elsewhere?

Did he fast when Jews were hanged in Iraq or were maltreated in Syria and Russia? In all the world, nobody, neither clergy nor lay groups, fasts or protests in aid of the Jews.

When Christians, Moslems and others begin fasting and protesting against the inhumanities suffered by the Jews, then I can seriously think of sacrificing myself for them.

Graham T. Epstein  
Lyndhurst.



SO the United Party have organised a protest campaign against the treatment of detainees by the Security Police.

Where were they when the other people died while being interrogated or in jail.

Did they not have enough foresight to realise that with the various machinations of the Government and the Security Police, ways would be found to abuse any safeguard that Parliament had put into an Act designed to protect our national security, not harm it.

It makes me laugh to think of their post hoc protest. Talk about closing the stable door after the horse has bolted.

Ruth Schiff.  
Linksfield, Johannesburg.

I HEARTILY subscribe to the determination of South Africa to keep out communism, but the suicide of detained persons whilst under interrogation by the police makes one very uneasy of the methods employed to obtain information.

H. Trant.

East London.



THE Reverend Bernard Wrankmore's dramatic protest has not been in vain. He has stirred the consciences of many South Africans.

The recent raids by the Security Police are very disturbing. There is a fear that legitimate opponents of apartheid are equated with enemies of South Africa.

Were the sacrifices of South African veterans of all colours in the two World Wars made in vain? They fought to maintain freedom and justice.

D. Polnay

Berea.

(Other letters on this subject have been received.)