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Suzman will ask to visit the detainees

STAFF REPORTER
MRS. HELEN SUZMAN, Progressive Party MP for Houghton, will today ask the Minister of Justice, Mr. Pelser, if she may visit some of the 20 persons now in detention under the Terrorism Act.

She said last night she particularly wanted to see five women detainees in Johannesburg and Mr. Mohamed Essop, the 21-year-old student believed to be in a prison hospital in Pretoria.

On Saturday Mrs. Suzman met family representatives of Indian detainees in Johannesburg.

They asked her to make representations on their behalf to Mr. Pelser, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, who is acting Minister of Police.

Mrs. Suzman said she wanted to see the detainees to set their families fears at rest in regard to their physical and mental condition.

After meeting the families, she said: "These people have obviously been intimidated.

"I think it reprehensible that the police should use their overwhelming power to further frighten these defenceless people."

By the disparity of the treatment of detainees, the police had appeared to have decided which of the detainees were guilty and which not.

LAWYERS REVIEW ATTITUDE

Staff Reporter

CONFIRMATION that the Potgieter Commission did not deal with the Terrorism Act might change the attitude of the Incorporated Law Society of the Transvaal to an inquiry into Section Six of the Act.

Last week, the society did not support a call for an inquiry because it considered that the Potgieter Commission might already have dealt with specific aspects of the Terrorism Act.

On Friday, Mr. Justice Potgieter told the Rand Daily Mail that his commission had not dealt with the Terrorism Act or the Suppression of Communism Act.

Mr. J. E. Knoll, president of the Transvaal Law Society, said yesterday that the society would reconsider the matter at a meeting on Wednesday.

"Our previous attitude was based on the assumption that the Potgieter Commission might have dealt with the matter. This information might change our thinking," he said.

The society had considered that publication of parts of the Potgieter Commission's report on the safety of the State might have allayed public concern about the Terrorism Act.

Detainee deaths: 400 at meeting

Staff Reporter

THE WORLD was no longer being governed by men but by ideologies, Dr. W. Bruckner de Villiers, the Transvaal Regional Director of the Progressive Party, told a crowd of about 400 people at a prayer meeting in Lenasia yesterday.

The meeting was held to commemorate the recent deaths of detainees.

Among those who spoke were Mrs. Helen Joseph, and Mr. Abu Bakkar Sarang, one of the organisers of the meeting.

Dr. De Villiers said: "Men are being ruled by the sickly ideologies they have created. The world is no longer being governed by men but by ideologies."

FACELESS

"We have entered the age when the faceless one comes to visit in the night and we have no protection against him. I have come here to ask for us to work for an end to this injustice. We are one people committed to the same destiny otherwise we perish.

"I am painting a dark picture but there is hope too." He added: "I have been invited here as a White man with a Christian conscience. I have not been invited here just because I am White but because I am your brother.

"I appeal to you to stand up and be counted as human beings, and not as animals who have been created by the machine of ideology."

Mr. Don Matterna, national public relations officer of the Coloured Labour Party, said: "It is a day of mourning all over the land because freedom has died and justice is gone. I have come here to mourn not the dead but to comfort the living."