

The memory of Ahmed Timol will live on forever as Mandela names Azaadville school

THE memory of ANC cadre Ahmed Timol will live on forever, following the renaming of a vital educational institution on the West Rand after him.

On March 23 President Nelson Mandela paid glowing tribute to Timol as he renamed the Azaadville Secondary the Ahmed Timol Secondary School at a glittering function attended by several dignitaries, community and civic leaders and politicians.

Mandela said there were few things in life as painful as losing one's child and "Timol's mother's testimony at the TRC was a painful reminder of such grief," although he did not meet the man.

He added: "Timol was a brave young man who believed in freedom and justice and who fought for nonracialism and

democracy.

"Timol would have been a proud citizen of this country where all cultures and religions are guaranteed by the constitution.

"He would have rejoiced in the fact that we are in the eve of our second democratic elections. He would have encouraged the community to be active in the building of the new South Africa and not to sit back and

wait for the government to do anything. "I am sure that all the children at this school will strive to live up to the memory of Ahmed Timol. The best way we can honour his memory is by ensuring that our democracy remains strong and that it does bring a better life for all."

Mandela added that if Timol's mother, Hawa, had lived to be part of the celebrations at the school, she would have felt her son's death was not in vain. Police in 1971 said Ahmed Timol died when he jumped through a window from the 10th floor of the security police headquarters in Johannesburg while being interrogated. But his family and the liberation movement disputed this, claiming he was tortured.

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