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(As discussed with Aslum Khota) Imtiaz Cajee 083 629 1515**

**PRESS RELEASE: BOOK TO COMMEMORATE AHMED TIMOL'S DEATH**

In a moving ceremony on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 1999, former President Nelson Mandela delivered the keynote address and officially re-named the Azaadville Secondary School in honor of Ahmed Timol, who died in police detention in 1971.

Timol was a student of the Johannesburg Indian High School and after qualifying as a teacher at the Transvaal Indian College in 1961, taught at Roodepoort Indian High School.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1971, five days after his arrest, Timol was reportedly killed when he accidentally fell to his death from the 10<sup>th</sup> floor (storey) window of the John Vorster Square Police Station.

To commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, Timol's nephew, Imtiaz has embarked on providing in literary form, the early days, family life and the events which saw him enter the political resistance era as well as the period shortly before his untimely death.

The state propaganda machines cover up tactics saw them evade crucial issues and aspects that lead to his detention, torture and death. Even the trial provided nothing of substance and Timol's ultimate sacrifice, like many before him was declared a suicide.

The Truth and Reconciliation hearings in April 1996 finally brought to light some of the events and circumstances surrounding the young teacher's death. Timol's ailing mother, Hawa, now late, told the hearings about the suffering, humiliation, insults and torment the family endured before and after the death of her son.

**APPEAL:**

Imtiaz has already gathered some truly fascinating material and untold stories. The book is in its planning and layout stage. In order to avoid missing or omitting vital material or information before publication, Imtiaz is appealing to former colleagues, friends, students, family and community members to forward their material or stories (however mundane or insignificant) to him.

" The intention is not to complicate matters but rather to enlighten the old and new generation about heroes from within the community who gave their lives for our liberation. "

" Their stories must find a place and be recorded, recognized and judged by history. After all, Ahmed paid the ultimate price", said Imtiaz

The book is also intended to reach most local and foreign libraries and Imtiaz hopes that the project can find its way into school set-works. The book is set to be published in October 2001, coinciding with Timol's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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