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Remember



ACTIVIST: Ahmed Timol

FRIDAY marked the 35th anniversary of the death of former teacher and activist Ahmed Timol.

Timol was arrested at a police roadblock on October 22 1971. Five days later police claimed that Timol had jumped to his death from the 10th floor of the John Vorster Square Police Station (now known as the Johannesburg Central Police Station) during interrogation.

An inquest found that Timol had committed suicide and that no one was responsible for his death.

Timol's ailing mother, Hawa, gave emotional testimony at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearings in Johannesburg on April 30 1996.

She appealed to the commission to find her son's killers and asked that a school be named after him.

Former president Nelson Mandela paid a fitting tribute to Timol when he renamed the Azaadville Secondary (on the West Rand) as the Ahmed Timol Secondary School on March 29 1999.

None of the policemen responsible for arresting Timol or interrogating him applied to the TRC for amnesty nor were they called to testify.

Hawa Timol died in May 1997 without witnessing the renaming of the school and finding out who was responsible for her son's death.

The Timol family eagerly awaits closure and appeals to the National Prosecuting Authority to assist in this matter.

Imtiaz Cajee
Pretoria