

Ahmed Timol's family wants closure

October 27, 2006 marks the 35th anniversary of the death of former teacher and trained underground activist, Ahmed Timol.

Timol was detained 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 named the Johannesburg Central Police Station - during interrogation.

The inquest findings surrounding Timol's death found that he had committed suicide and that no one was responsible for his death.

His ailing mother, Hawa, gave emotional testimony at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearings held in Johannesburg on 30 April 30, 1996. Hawa appealed to the commission to find her son's killers, and requested that a school be named after her son.

Former president Nelson Mandela paid a fitting tribute to Timol when he renamed the Azaadville Secondary School 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 passed away 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 Prosecution Authority to assist in this matter.

Imtiaz Cajee
Nephew of Ahmed Timol

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