

THE ON-OFF Timol rally was eventually held in the University of the Witwatersrand Great Hall, and was organised by the Wits Students' Representative Council.

Originally, the rally was to have been held at Queen's Park Ground, Vrededorp, but the Ahmed Timol Memorial committee was forced to abandon their plans when the Government placed a 14-day ban on all open air meetings of a political nature in and around Johannesburg.

The meeting went off

Timol rally at varsity

without incidents and the speakers, including Mrs. Helen Joseph, commemorated the death of Ahmed Timol, and the 21 others known to have died while in detention, and called for the release

of all political prisoners.

Mrs. R. Saloojee, wife of "Bable" Saloojee, the first to die in detention, told the meeting her husband died nine years ago.

"I was allowed to see

him once while he was in detention. The second time I saw him he was a dead man.

"Since then 21 others have died. I hope that those who gave their lives in the struggle for freedom are not forgotten," she said.

The chairman of the meeting was Mr. Glen Moss, president of the Wits SRC. A poem was also read by a young Indian man.

LETTERS

Bring 'political' prisoners to trial

SUNDAY, October 28, will be the second anniversary of the death of Mr. Ahmed Timol, who fell from the ninth floor of Security Headquarters in Johannesburg. This immediately reminds us that 21 others, under varying circumstances, have also met their deaths in detention during the last ten years — in most cases from natural causes or from suicide.

In addition to these cases, over 200 people are restricted by banning orders, and there are many under sentence of imprisonment as "political" prisoners.

The Civil Rights League has repeatedly condemned the system of detention without trial, which must inevitably have serious psychological effects on the people concerned, even without any actual physical ill-treatment.

The League again urges that if people are so detained, they should be held as normal awaiting-trial prisoners, be brought to trial with the least

possible delay, and appear before a judge of the Supreme Court at least once a week until their trial does take place.

The present state of affairs is a grave infringement of the civil rights of the individuals concerned. With all the other legislation at its disposal, the Government could well afford to repeal the notorious Section Six of the Terrorism Act.

The League would also urge a periodic review of the cases of all "political" prisoners, and their release whenever this is found to be justified. This would, we believe, be a constructive step towards improved race relations. Together with the improvement at present envisaged by the Government in the economic position of lower-paid workers and in employer-worker communication, it would surely reduce the tensions that bedevil our national life at present. — MAGGIE RODGER, Secretary, Civil Rights League, Cape Town.

23/10/1973
"RDM"