

'Probe torture allegations'

Staff Reporter
THE ANGLICAN Bishop of Pretoria, the Right Rev. E. G. Knapp-Fisher, has supported calls for a judicial commission of inquiry into allegations of ill-treatment of detainees.
Writing in the diocesan pub-

lication, The Kingdom, he said that on a recent visit to Britain he heard allegations of cruelty to Irish detainees and also calls for a judicial inquiry.
All this sounded familiar to South Africans in whose coun-

try similar allegations were made.
Repressive measures inevitably made it possible for those responsible for law and order to "ignore principles of justice and even engage in cruelty and torture," wrote the

bishop.
Father Wrangmore's fast had focused attention on this.
Only a judicial commission of Inquiry could establish the facts, he added.
"Readiness of any country to follow this procedure is one

of the marks of the civilisation and justice which it claims to uphold."
Wide support should be given to a statement by the Christian Institute's Cape Board of Management members who said they were "gravely disturbed"

by allegations of "cruelty and torture inflicted upon prisoners" and who asked the Prime Minister for a judicial commission of inquiry into "allegations of torture reported to have been inflicted on detainees."

TIMOL'S DEATH: INQUIRY CALL

Staff Reporter

THE South African Indian Council has told the Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Waring, of "the tremendous amount of unrest" among the Indian community at the recent death while in detention of Mr. Ahmed Timol.
The chairman of the council's executive committee, Mr. A. M. Rajab, said in an interview yesterday that the council, in a telegram to the Minister asked for an inquiry into Mr. Timol's death-fall from the 10th floor of John Vorster Square in Johannesburg.

"We emphasised the deep concern at Ahmed Timol's death, and also at the illness of another Indian detainee, Mr. Mohammed Essop, and requested the police to issue a statement immediately to dispel the uncertainty and rumours surrounding the two incidents."

THE REPLY

The Secretary for Indian Affairs, Mr. H. A. Prinsloo, replying on behalf of the minister, referred the council to the Prime Minister's statement, in which he said the matter was being investigated and the police were carrying out routine inquiries.

Mr. Rajab said the Indian Council joined in the general demand for a judicial inquiry into the death of Mr. Timol.

"I have also called for the next-of-kin and legal representatives of detainees to be allowed to see them. The police could be present to ensure that there was no unauthorised communication," Mr. Rajab said.

"The Indian community is deeply upset and we feel that some reassurance from the authorities is urgently necessary."

Timol's father makes statement

By CLIVE EMDOM

MR. YUSUF TIMOL, father of the dead detainee, Mr. Ahmed Timol, made a statement yesterday to Major-General C. A. Buys, the Chief of the CID, who is investigating the circumstances of the death at John Vorster Square, Johannesburg, last Wednesday.

Mr. M. S. H. Cachalia, the father's lawyer said Maj.-Gen. Buys had asked for the statement. The investigation is expected to be completed this week.

Meanwhile, it is known that 19 per sons are still being detained in terms of the Terrorism Act in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban. None has access to lawyers or family.

Yesterday, Mr. Sam Garda, brother of the 32-year-old detainee, Mr. Yusuf "Chubb" Garda, confirmed that he had spoken to his brother by telephone early one morning.

This has been the only known case of direct communication between a detainee and his family in the past 10 days since the first arrests.

Police have, however, allowed Mr. Yusuf Garda and Dr. M. Momoniat — who has since been released — to answer written questions put to them by their families.

In their replies, Mr. Garda gave instructions on the running of his choolwear business and Dr. Momoniat on his medical practice.

Each night in the past week between 40 and 50 people have gathered to pray at the Gardas' Vrededorp, Johannesburg, flat.

Mr. Sam Garda said he spoke to his brother on the telephone at 6.15 am last Thursday. Until that time, the family had been allowed to take him food every day.

The detainee said that, in ffigure, they should not bring so much food and stipulated: one flask of tea, one flask of coffee, one pear, one banana, one apple and a packet of cigarettes a day.

"For the past four days they have refused to take food from the family to him," Mr. Garda said.

Mr. Garda said he was told by a senior Security Police officer that he should have known by last Thursday whether his brother would be released or put on trial. "We have heard nothing since."