

TIMOL INQUEST

THE STAG
JOHANNESBURG
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Mr. Yusuf Timol, half-blind father of Ahmed Timol, with his wife Hawa at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court today. They are attending the inquest into the death of Ahmed Timol.

Little for public

Staff Reporter

ANTI-CLIMAX came early at the Timol inquest.

Spectators crammed into the small, bleak courtroom — but for the public there was really little to hear.

Aptly, perhaps — since the official public inquiry of how the 30-year-old teacher, Mr Ahmed Timol, died at John Vorster Square on October 26 is expected to last a long time — it got off to a slow start.

For 40 minutes lawyer and magistrate argued technicalities about the interpretation of the law and procedure to be followed.

Then the court was adjourned while it was determined whether the police were re-presented.

Only the popping flashbulbs of the Press photographers as lawyers, police and medical men filed out of court, gave a hint of any excitement.

Inside, the ageing Mr Yusuf Timol, bearded, bespectacled and clutching his cane, had strained to hear from his seat at the back of the public gallery.

POLICEMEN

His wife, Mrs Hawa Timol, sat in front of him. A flimsy scarf covered her head and she fingered a handkerchief.

With them was Mr Molvi Suliman, second to the Grand Mufti of the Moslems in South Africa.

Senior policemen, lawyers and medical men sat in the well of the court.

High above them all — against the backdrop of a vast white wall bearing only the South African Coat of Arms, sat the magistrate and his assessor.