

Timol Memorial service told

SA youth must join struggle

Staff Reporter

CALLS to the youth of South Africa to take up the struggle against apartheid were made yesterday at a memorial service for Mr. Ahmed Timol — the young schoolteacher who died last year in a fall from the 10th floor of John Vorster Square, where he was being interrogated.

About 250 people mainly Indian high school students, attended the lunch-hour service, which began with speeches at the Timol family's Roodepoort home and ended with prayers around Timol's grave in the small Moslem cemetery nearby.

The service marked the anniversary of his funeral on October 29 last year. Many of those attending were pupils at the Roodepoort Indian High School, where the 30-year-old detainee taught before his death.

Two buses brought nearly 100 pupils and teachers from three Lenasia high schools.

"We did it as a gesture of solidarity," one of them said.

A number of Whites also attended, including Mrs. Helen Joseph, former house arrestee and long-time opponent of apartheid. Mrs. Joseph sat next to Mrs. Hava Timol, Ahmed's mother, before addressing the crowd which packed a corridor outside the Timol flat. As she is a listed person, she cannot be quoted.

WREATHS

Mr. Mohammed Timol, younger brother of Ahmed, told the crowd before they left for the cemetery: "Only by holding meetings like this can we make people aware of what happens to political opponents in our country."

He said his brother had not been the first detainee to die while being interrogated by the Security Police.

"I was detained myself. I know what it's like."

He urged those present "to remember that our future lies with the Black people of this country."

"Every day should be one of dedication to the struggle, and of commemoration for all political prisoners, as well as those who die in police custody."

A young Lenasia student called on South African youth to defy "this exploitative system" and to have the courage to stand and be counted. Led by Mrs. Joseph and relatives of Ahmed Timol, the

crowd then moved off through the back streets of Roodepoort to the Moslem cemetery. Wreaths were laid at the grave and an uncle, Mr. Ebrahim Moola, intoned prayers over it. He was interrupted for about three minutes as a train roared past, drowning the proceedings.

The dead man's father, Mr. Yussuf Timol, did not attend. He was in retreat at a mosque for the Moslem holy month of Ramadan.

Numerous relatives were present, including two of Ahmed's sisters and two of his

brothers. One of them, Mr. Ismail Timol, recently returned from India, where he has been studying.

The family of Shanthie Naidoo, the banned Johannesburg woman who left the country on an exit permit last month, also attended the ceremony.

Ahmed Timol died on October 27 last year — four and a half days after he was detained. After a long and costly inquest, a magistrate found in June this year he had committed suicide and that no one was to blame for his death.