

10. The Roodpoort Indian High School was forcibly closed down by the Nationalist Government on 13 April, 1982, and moved to Azaadville as the Azaadville Secondary School. To keep Ahmed Timol's contribution to the freedom struggle alive, and to recognise his invaluable input to education, the school should be re-named the Ahmed Timol Secondary School.

There are also other substantial and valid reasons for this magnanimous gesture in re-naming the school.

- At the TRC submission in April, 1996, the late Mrs Hava Timol, mother of late Ahmed Timol had expressed a desire that a fitting tribute in the memory of her late son would be to rename the school.
  - Mrs Mary Metcalfe, MEC for Education in Gauteng, the District Director, Mrs Nomalisa Molefe and the Deputy Director, Mr Ndevu had also expressed their wishes to re-name the school. With the unveiling of the plaque by President Mandela a "dream" has become reality.
  - The School Governing Committee on 19 May, 1998 unanimously voted to re-name the school the Ahmed Timol Secondary School.
  - Finally, through the blessing of the MEC, Mary Metcalfe and the Gauteng Education Department, the school was renamed the Ahmed Timol Secondary School.
  - Our sincere and big THANK YOU to Mrs Mary Metcalfe for arranging that the Honourable President be present here today to officially name this school the AHMED TIMOL SECONDARY SCHOOL.
11. I hope that I have made more than a sufficient case for renaming the school. I wish to thank the SGC members for their unequivocal support in my endeavour to rename the school, and for all the kind support which I received from Mr D N Jura, the Principal of the school, Mrs Mary Metcalfe, Mrs Molefe and Mr Ndevu, and the Gauteng Department of Education in this invaluable endeavour.

Viva Ahmed Timol Secondary School Viva!

Viva Mandela Viva!



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*Renaming of the Azaadville Secondary School to*  
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*and the*

*Unveiling of the*  
**Plaque by President Mandela - MONDAY, 29 MARCH, 1999**

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The Guest of Honour, President Mandela; the MEC for Education, Mrs. Mary Metcalfe; the District Director, Mrs Noma Molefe; Mrs Amina Desai; the principal of the Ahmed Timol Secondary School, Mr Jutta; the principal of Azaadville Primary School, Mr Ismail; the Chairperson of Ahmed Timol Secondary School, Mr Varachia; the Chairperson of Azaadville Primary School, Mr Amod; members of the TRC, Mrs Yasmin Sooka and Dr Fazel Randeria; members of the Timol family; members of the Essop family; MP's - Mr Ismail Vadi; Mr Ahmed Kathrada; Mr Isu Chiba; Dr Essop Jassat; Dr Saloojee and Mr Saloojee; ladies, gentlemen, educators, parents and learners.

I have been asked to make a case for the re-naming of the Azaadville Secondary School to AHMED TIMOL SECONDARY SCHOOL. The task has fallen on my shoulders because I was a colleague of late Ahmed Timol at the Roodepoort Indian High School in 1971, and was also detained with him, Mohammed Salim Essop, Mrs Amina Desai and many others under the Terrorism Act of 1967. Secondly, I had also presented a motivation to the School Governing Committee for the re-naming of the school, since Yusuf Dadoo, an ANC member in Azaadville, had made many failed attempts (before the first democratic elections in 1994) with the House of Delegates as well as with the school, to rename the school.

I will be brief and argumentative in my presentation.

1. On Friday, 22 October, 1971, Ahmed Timol and his close friend and confidante, Mohamed Salim Essop were returning late at night from Johannesburg to Roodepoort. Both were arrested at around 11 pm at a police roadblock on Fuel Road, opposite the West Park Cemetery in Newclare. The roadblock was set up as the result of a security police agent passing information to the police that they were carrying inflammatory material in their car.
2. Over the next few days many other individuals were also arrested and detained under the Terrorism Act of 1967. Among them were eminent persons like Mrs Amina Desai; a member of the Timol family; members of the Essop family; many school teachers and many ex-pupils of the Roodepoort Indian High School.
3. Five days after their detention, Ahmed Timol died at the hands of the Security Police at 4 pm on Wednesday, 27 October, 1971. According to the Security Police version, Ahmed Timol took his own life by leaping out of a window in office number 1026 on the tenth floor of the notorious John Vorster Square. On the other hand, Mohammed Salim Essop was hospitalised first at the Johannesburg General Hospital, and then at the Hendrik Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria with serious assault injuries inflicted by the Security Police.
4. It was more than obvious then that both these activists were badly assaulted by the Security Police at the John Vorster Square. It is claimed by Gordon Winter, a former "Sunday Express" journalist and self-confessed Boss spy that while hanging Ahmed Timol out of the window, one of the Security Policemen lost control of one of legs he was holding, thereby

dropping him from the tenth floor. I tend to believe this version because they had also assaulted me badly and threatened to hang me out of the office window when I was being interrogated.

5. None of these Security Policemen had applied to the TRC for amnesty, and no one, to date, has been brought to books for Ahmed's death and for the vicious assault on Mohammed Salim. Even the Ex-Commissioner of Police, General Johann Coetzee, who was in charge of the Timol's case and Essop's case, had not applied for amnesty. He knew exactly what happened to Ahmed, Salim, and many other detainees during that period. I had gently implored his worship Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Chairperson of the TRC, to apply pressure on these people to apply for amnesty so that the truth could be revealed about Timol's death, as well as information relating to who Mr "X" was and who had featured prominently during the Timol Inquest, as well as information on other people in the community who were working for the Security Police as agents.
6. Ahmed Timol, who was a popular and dedicated teacher at the Roodepoort Indian High School for many years, had given his precious life for freedom and democracy which we are enjoying today. Many individuals like Babia Saloojee, Dr Neil Aggett, Dr Hafizee, Steve Biko had also sacrificed their lives for what we have inherited in terms of a negotiated freedom and democracy. Ahmed Timol was well-liked both by the learners and educators. He was very friendly and had a good sense of humour. He was a peace loving man. He had followed Gandhi's policy of "Satyagraha" (Passive Resistance) and "Ahimsa" (non-violence), and would not have taken any lives in the pursuance of struggle against apartheid - which was his basic human right.
7. When I was in detention at John Vorster Square for four-and-a-half months I never dreamt or imagined that we will achieve DEMOCRACY by peaceful means - the only avenue open was nothing shorter than a BLOODY REVOLUTION by the masses. This was because of the fact that the Security Police were bent on assaulting detainees until they capitulated or lost their lives. One could see that they were poised to annihilate any opposition by whatever means, even if it meant the violation of human rights. I was badly assaulted by the so-called "HELICOPTER TREATMENT" - both my arms were badly lamed. Upon my release I was warned that I would be used as a state witness, and also that if I went to the media regarding my assault or told my family about my injuries, I would be re-detained and my legs would be broken. They had instilled fear into me and many others who were in detention. Such was the tyranny of the Security Police as we know from the hair-raising stories from people like Dirk Coetzee, Eugene De Kock and many others who loyally worked for the Security Police to fight any opposition to maintain the status quo of the Nationalist Government by any means - even at the cost of gross human rights violations.
8. Mr Piers Pigou, who investigated the Timol's case for the TRC, found a document in the Department of Justice in March, 1997 which shows that I was badly assaulted, and that I was "persuaded" to withdraw assault charges which I had laid against the Security Police. The finding of this document was vindication for me since my input into the TRC was substantiated and this document was invaluable both to me and the TRC since many documents relating to the police brutality were destroyed by the police before the 1994 elections.
9. Mr President, your substantial sacrifice and your unenviable achievement of negotiated democracy rather than a BLOODY REVOLUTION was a miracle. Indeed it was more than a miracle - it was World's first super achievement. Your achievement will be written in the annals of World History in GOLD, SILVER and PLATINUM. You followed GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHY and Martin Luther's NON-VIOLENCE PATH to achieve this miracle. Your "LONG WALK TO FREEDOM" also became the "LONG WALK TO FREEDOM" for the majority of the people who had suffered under the apartheid regime. They are now living in a negotiated democracy and a free South Africa.