

H11<sup>1</sup>a.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA  
GAUTENG DIVISION**

Case number: I01/ 2017

In the matter of:

**REOPENED INQUEST: LATE AHMED TIMOL**

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**PIERS ASHLEY PIGOU**

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I, the undersigned

**PIERS ASHLEY PIGOU**

do hereby make oath and state:

1. I am an adult male residing in Johannesburg. I am the International Crisis Group's Senior Consultant for Southern Africa. Formerly, from 2011 I was Crisis Group's Southern Africa Project Director, overseeing the organisation's research and advocacy activities in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Madagascar and Angola.




2. I hold an M.A. in Southern African Studies from York University and a B.A. (Hons) in Politics from Portsmouth Polytechnic.
  
3. Before joining Crisis Group, I was:
  - 3.1. the Program Manager at the Foundation for Human Rights,
  - 3.2. a Senior Associate for Southern Africa at the International Center for Transitional Justice,
  - 3.3. Director of the South African History Archive,
  - 3.4. Research and Advocacy Coordinator at the Institute for Democratic Alternatives in South Africa/
  - 3.5. Researcher at the Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation;
  - 3.6. Investigator for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa,
  - 3.7. International Advisor to the Truth Seeking Division of the East Timorese Truth, Reconciliation and Reception Commission.
  
4. I was attached to the investigation unit of the Gauteng office of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
  
5. During 1996 and 1997 I was asked to investigate the detention and death in custody of Ahmed Timol. I was able to identify and collate records from a range



- of state and private archives relating to Timol and others arrested during the sweep on activists during 1971.
6. During this period I spoke with the daughter of Joao Rodrigues, the police officer who, according to official records had been in the room with Timol when he allegedly jumped from the 10th Floor. I had been informed that Rodrigues' daughter has been encouraging her father to engage with the TRC.
  7. As a result of this interaction, I was able to locate and speak with Mr Rodrigues who at the time was working for SanParks. We arranged to meet in Pretoria at the SanPark offices. He indicated when we spoke telephonically that he was willing to discuss the case. Several days later I drove to Pretoria as arranged and met Mr Rodrigues at his place of work.
  8. However, at this meeting he was no longer amicable nor was he willing to cooperate. He came across as reticent and insisted that our entire interaction be recorded with a voice recorder. He was not willing to talk to me about what has happened with Timol and our interaction was concluded rather quickly.
  9. I indicated that the TRC needed to hear his version of events directly, and I informed him that I would be advising the TRC to subpoena him in terms of Section 29 of the TRC Act. I subsequently made such a recommendation to the Commission, but this was not done.



10. It appeared to me that between the time of my initial contact with Mr Rodrigues and the time we actually met, he had either by himself or as a result of the intervention of another, decided not to cooperate with the TRC.
11. As far as I am aware Mr Rodrigues never approached the TRC in order to disclose what he knew about the death of Ahmed Timol.



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**PIERS PIGOU**

The Deponent has acknowledged that he knows and understands the contents of this affidavit, which was signed and affirmed before me at LONDON on this the 4th day of AUGUST 2017.



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**COMMISSIONER OF OATHS**

FULL NAMES: *Nagendran Kandiah*

DESIGNATION: *Solicitor*

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