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AFRICAN  
NATIONAL CONGRESS  
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versary of the death in detention of  
depoort school teacher, who died in a  
tall from the 10th floor of John Voster Square. The Security police had  
arrested him four days previously in connection with the distribution  
of ANC and Communist Party leaĩ-\202ets. They claimed he had jumped, and  
ts to commit suicide when in  
that it was â\200\234customary for communis  
custody.â\200\235  
October 27th is the 20th anni  
Ahmed Timol, the 30 year old Roo  
Ahmed Timol was the 19th person known to have died in detention.  
Twenty years later this number has risen to well over 80. The state  
inquest into Timolâ\200\230s death found â\200\234the cause was suicide and no-body  
was to blameâ\200\235. But evidence given by medical experts revealed a  
different picture. The doctor who attended the post mortem on behalf  
of the Timol family listed that multiple injuries had been caused prior  
to the fall, and evidence from a police captain stated that when Timoi  
arrived at John Voster Square on October the 23rd he "had no injuries  
or woundsâ\200\235. That police brutality had been particularly vicious was  
reflected in the condition of Timoi's colleague. Mohammed Essop. who  
had been arrested with him. The day before Timoiâ\200\231s death Essop was  
removed from John Voster Square to hospital. A district surgeon had  
found him â\200\234distressed, semi-conscious and In a state of severe  
hysteria with bruises on his body and face.â\200\235  
ounding the tragic death of Ahmed  
, who sought to rid our country of  
the evils of apartheid. it was the contention of our movement then, as  
it is now, that the security police were responsible for his death. We  
rejected then, as we still do, the grossly unsatisfactory verdict of the  
presiding magistrate at the inquest into his death. We are demanding  
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The Peonie Shall Goâ\200\230serĩ-\201i

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that the investigation be re-opened by a competent judicial authority and that those found to be responsible for complicity in his death be punished.

This demand applies to all cases. The list includes such outstanding figures as:

Looksmart Solwandie Ngudli

Bahia Salojee

Solomon Modipane

iman Abdul Haroon

Joseph Mdiuii

Laurence Ndzaga

Mathew Mabeiane

Eiiaiah Loza

Steve Biko

Neil Aggett

Ernest Dipale

Sithole Sizwe

and Donald Madisha

These deaths of liberation movement figures, trade unionists and religious leaders have taken place between 1963 and 1990. They have taken place at police stations throughout the country, and the causes have been disingeniously ascribed to circumstances such as "slipping on soap", â\200\234heart failure", â\200\234falling against a chair", â\200\234knocking o

nes  
head against a deskâ\200\235 and suicide by hanging using materials such as "shirts and socks", as well as death by â\200\234jumping" in at least half a dozen cases.

Unless the causes of these deaths are fully investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice this country is not going to successfully deal with the ongoing violence.

Deaths in police custody continue to occur. According to the HRC 4 deaths were recorded in 1990 in this category and for the first 9 months in 1991 a further 6 people died. It is clear that the police continue to be a law unto themselves and that no detainee is protected against torture. The most recent such deaths in police custody took place as recently as October 14th. 1991: Sally Mogashoa of SADTU, the Democratic Teachers Union, died at the Namakgale police station. Phaiaborwa and Babusang Monnana, a former hunger striker, died at the Rooigrond prison in Bophutswana.

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The complicity of state doctors in failing to give proper professional attention to detainees, highlighted in the Steve Biko case has once more come to the fore in the case of comrade Monnana's death; when Dr Manyapelo refused to admit the hunger striker to hospital a few days prior to his death. -

The current wave of selective assassinations of political activists and trade unionists is an extension of the deaths in detention. Only recently Sam Ntuli was gunned down by a hit squad in Thokoza, while last week the young activist Vuyani Mabaxa was shot down in cold blood by police in Diepkloof. Since June 1990 over 60 people have been assassinated in circumstances similar to that of Ntuli. Assassination of activists go back a long way and include such names as Ruth First, Joe anbi, Dulcie September, Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge, David Webster, Matthew Goniwe, Fort Calata, Chief Maphumulo etc.

Apart from selective assassinations since July over 1 500 people have been killed by vigilantes on the Reef and in Natal.

This is all part of a pattern of undeclared war waged to prevent the liberation movement from achieving the goal of a democratic non-racial South Africa. On the 20th anniversary of Timol's death. we cannot afford to forget him and others like him. We are commemorating this anniversary with:

- \* A vigil in Commissioner Street outside John Voster Square on Saturday between noon and 1 pm.

- \* On Sunday there is a meeting at the Azaadville civic centre which will be addressed by Ahmed Kahrada, Pallo Jordan, George Bizos and Mohammed Timol, the brother of Ahmed.

- \* Prayers will be said in mosques this Friday, and we asked other religious denominations to follow suite.

- \* Numerous other public meetings and vigils at police stations will be held throughout the country.

We are demanding from President de Klerk and his regime that all, killings of our people must stop immediately.

We want peace and justice in our country, and we will not be deterred from achieving that!

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