

Dear friends,

Herewith my latest offering. I hope it adds depth and dimension to the quest for egalité and real democracy.

This Newsletter can be viewed on my website (no charges or passwords required). [www.horstkleinschmidt.co.za](http://www.horstkleinschmidt.co.za). Images too large to include here, can also be viewed on the website.

My best wishes for the festive season and the coming year!

Yours,

Horst

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**1. New noon gun over Johannesburg, unfinished business and recalling my jailors.**

The Old Fort Prison in the middle of Johannesburg dates back to the Anglo-Boer war. [Historians are agreeing to call it the South African War these days, as far as I know.] During the apartheid years white political opponents were detained and held as awaiting-trial prisoners here. 'Number 4', a section of the prison was reserved for political opponents classified other than white. Robert Sobukwe, Nelson Mandela and Joe Slovo were at times incarcerated here. On 5 December 2018 new and updated display was launched at a ceremonial function. My friend and comrade, Cedric Mayson was one whose detention is now integrated into the museum. His fellow-inmate, Dr Rob Adam spoke eloquently of everyday prison life and their attempts to break out. A story not told before involves getting tungsten wire into the cells to cut the prison bars. Court appearances (countless remands) provided the opportunity to communicate messages and smuggle items into jail. One lunch time afforded the opportunity: friends handed the defence team hotdogs for the accused, kept in holding cells under the court rooms, while also consulting with their lawyers. Cedric, so the story is told by Rob, bit into his boerewors only to realize that the tungsten wire was hidden in it. Although they sawed at the steel bars, their escape could not be executed.

Cedric's wife, Penelope, attended the opening and was asked to be the first to fire the ancient restored cannon on the hill that forms a rampart of the prison. As a reminder of the price we paid for freedom the cannon will fire a volley at noon each day from now on. I was very privileged to attend.



The family of Achmed Timol<sup>1</sup> have fought hard to bring justice and thus closure to Achmed's torture and murder 37 years ago. Although most perpetrators have died by now, Joao (Jan) Rodrigues, SB man on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of John Vorster Square when Achmed was thrown or dropped out of the window, was charged and is currently standing trial. He had not applied for amnesty to the TRC. There is much else the TRC could have investigated, had there been the political will, but neither the ANC nor the NP had the appetite. Both wanted to protect deep secrets.

<sup>1</sup> Reference to Timol also in my Newsletter Nr 37.

Their failure will haunt South Africa for a long time yet. Slowly the dirty secrets emerge. Slowly justice might yet be done and this may bring an ending to the anguish of the families who suffered.

I never met Achmed Timol. Yet his life touched mine. The SB raided our flat in Milnerton, Cape Town three or four days before they killed him. We were but one of hundreds of homes raided that night. They found “banned” literature in our flat, allegedly posted by Achmed. I was charged under the Suppression of Communism Act for possession of two magazines, one issued by the ANC, the other by the SACP. I told the magistrate I had not read them yet and that I might have destroyed them had I got around to reading this unsolicited mail. The good judge Sharkie King gave me the benefit of the doubt, pronouncing that the ‘explanation by the young man is quite plausible’. I went home without a conviction<sup>2</sup>.

Four years after the raid I was detained under the Terrorism Act and found myself on the same 10<sup>th</sup> floor Achmet was killed/pushed from. I was by then fully aware of the place I was in. There I saw a row of windows, a row of desks and SB men behind them. Captain van Niekerk told them this was their chance to put a face to the name they were watching or investigating. The judge in the inquest into Achmet’s death found it plausible that Achmed had jumped out of the window, to keep his secrets. Now I was paraded before these safari-suited, grey-shoed, sun-glass-wearing heavyweight thugs. I was spared such torture (or fate) but endured 73 days of solitary confinement – a variety of torture. My emotional life was turned upside down. The effects stayed with me even when I thought it was all behind me. The trauma on my loved ones also took its toll. My mother wrote to me on my birthday in 1976, “I don’t want to remember when you spent your 30<sup>th</sup> [birthday] in prison. Thank God you are away from here, there would have been nothing good for you here”.

I seek no revenge. I have come face to face with former SB men. One was Col Zirk Gous, a high-ranking policeman in the new SA. He told me that as a young SB cop he was tasked to hang around our house in Melville, Johannesburg, to see who visited us, and to peep through the curtains at night. The passage of time, he suggested was enough for us to maybe become friends. I declined us meeting socially. But I can say honestly, I want no revenge.

As I order my archive of things that motivated me and often caused tumult in my life, I come across documents I have not seen in decades that evoke feelings I thought had long disappeared. Recently I came across a list of SB agents which I compiled in early 1976 for the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, an organisation involved in the defence of political trialists.

My one-page note reads as follows: “Names of SA’s SBs plus information available. 1. Colonel Gough, expert on overseas organizations – Paris – Boss, 2. Koos Brandt – attorney in Windhoek, close to other lawyers, expert on Namibia, Boss, divorced, 2 kids, learns German [he was tasked with formulating potential charges against me during detention], 3. Fanie Ferreira – ref Horst, new in it, 4. Sgt Maj Spyker [nail] van Wyk – mainly involved in physical torture > Imam Haroon > imaginary chair ‘I have hit a nail through the penis of a Jew’, electric shocks. 5. Lt. Taylor – violent (Durban)” In front of each of the above names is an \*, signaling that these were the men who interrogated me. The list goes on, partly from what I observed during my interrogations, partly from my CI work to compile lists of detainees and what happened to them etc. We compiled these reports to make public what otherwise would have been disappearances. Local and international media reported extensively on our reports between 1974 and 1977 (when the CI was banned). Spyker van Wyk, when he and three SB’s drove me from John Vorster Square to the Pretoria Central Prison saw the newspaper billboards that said: Top CI man detained. With a chuckle he said, after you are gone nobody will report on people we arrest.

My recently discovered list continues. “6. Aggenbach – [he] is van Wyk’s assistant – also from Cape Town. 7. ‘Kalfie’ Broerderijk Lt. Col. – main investigator in Bram Fischer and Breytenbach cases. 9. Pottie Potgieter 10. Colonel Kotze/Coetzee (Petrus Johannes) head of SB No 8346464, SB since 1953. 11. MB van Niekerk (jhb) – HK raid [on our house in 1975, upon which I was detained] Captain, SB. 12. Liebenberg (jhb), 13. Sons, Saths Sono alias Sons – black. 14. Major van Rensburg – Breytenbach case, 15. Major Olivier (Jhb) – HK raid, 16. Major Harry Baker – torture, 17. Const. Ivor Kleinbiel, SB – Nusas case witness. 18. van Zyl – Durban, 19. Wellman – Durban – torture, 20. Major HD Stadler – Durban Scotland Yard trained, 21. Capt AB Cronwright (picture available), 22. Col JG Dreyer (Johannes) - accused [?], 23. Van der Westhuizen, 24. Col Steenkamp, Head Security Police Durban, 25. Captain R Hansen – Head SB in KWT [King Willams Town], 26. Lt Fourie, 27. Lt-Col. HJ Kotze- Head SB Cape Town.

Hundreds of surviving ex detainees can testify to having encountered these men in a time when power was abused and human rights violations were as regular as the sun rising in the east and setting in the west.

The Achmed Timol Foundation has called for the re-opening of the Steve Biko inquest and for inquests into all others killed in detention. Read more:

<http://www.ahmedtimol.co.za/calls-for-govt-to-reopen-steve-biko-inquest>

It is 41 years since Steve was killed. Read a reflective essay by Siphosiso Malefane:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2018-09-11-reflections-on-steve-biko-and-black-consciousness/#.W5iWWAgB1es.email>

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<sup>2</sup> A recent email enquired whether I was the same person who lived in a flat in Milnerton in 1971. She had knocked on our door but never found us in. She wanted to ask if we had a connection to whom they could give clothes for poor folk. Her church had collected these. She then knocked on our neighbour’s door. The occupant, whom we never met, told her we were communists and she should not waste time with us.

Also read: [Anton] **Lubowski: Who pulled the trigger?** By [John Grobler](#) 30 Jul 2008. He raises the question: Was Swapo activist advocate Anton Lubowski assassinated on September 12 1989 because, unknowingly, he was about to expose evidence of mass murder by apartheid authorities, with potentially disastrous consequences for vested economic interests at the time? Charles Courtney-Clarke, a former associate of the late human rights activist, believes this was clearly the case—and has produced several pieces of evidence he maintains point to a convergence of political and economic interests aligned against Lubowski. Two previous judicial inquests to unravel Lubowski’s murder raised more questions than answers. The first, held before retired judge Harold Levy in 1993, found that Lubowski was murdered by unknown individuals believed to have been part of the Civil Co-operation Bureau’s (CCB) Region 6 team. <https://mg.co.za/article/2008-07-30-lubowski-who-pulled-the-trigger>

## 2. Where we live.

There is a seductive calm and beauty in the photo below, you will agree. We live up these steps, known as Jacobs Ladder. It lulls the privileged into the paradise created and gifted us during apartheid. Two decades after the TRC, the wounds of SA's 'unfinished business' still ache. Our socio-economic disparities keep making us more unequal. We rank most unequal globally! Charitable acts will not change this; we need policy changes that don’t slavishly follow what the rich North dictates to us in the name of ‘investor friendly’ policies. This is not a call for a Hugo Chavez for South Africa, but a call for a viable party left of center. At present we have no such thing; they all crowd out the center right and far right. (The EFF is no exception. Their emotive rhetoric has hallmarks of fascism in it. We should be very concerned. They and AfriForum, who appeal to Afrikaner nationalism, pose huge potential threats for the future. The appeal of the extremist parties arises because the ANC, DA and the sum of the small political parties crowd out the center-right of the political spectrum. Their policies fail to address the socio-economic legacy apartheid left us with.



Also in my neighbourhood is Masiphumelele, where 40,000 (Black) people eke out an existence on 2 sq. km, whilst the rest of us (mostly White), also about 40,000 live on 40 sq. km. The City owns tracts of undeveloped land in this area but holds out for the day when developers come with the right price for another prestige (and gated) complex. The Democratic Party rules in our City. Their track record for transformation, transition or integration is abysmal. From the viewpoint of the have-nots, our City is run by a hang-over of the old apartheid order.



Through years of community struggle the City was at last compelled in 2016 to sign an agreement brokered by the Public Protector, to produce a plan for Masiphumelele to break the cycle of neglect, exclusion and outright racism. Just a plan for discussion was all that was required from the elected officials. Deadlines have come and gone. Delay is the policy, to maintain the status quo of the past. – The longer those in slumber continue, the ruder will be the wake-up call one day.

Also in our midst is Ocean View, the place where apartheid forcibly moved most of the 680 families to who once lived in nearby Simon’s Town. Today visitors quickly feel welcome in this quaint Victorian port and naval base. It is here where in 1968 families were robbed of their livelihoods, their homes and sense of belonging, and dumped in the “Group Area for Coloureds”. Those evicted remain mostly poor, often

unemployed and without equal City services. This has led to gang and drug wars. Ocean View is yet another ghetto near us, defined by apartheid.



A small group, from across the social divides is currently working on designs for an alternative integrated far-south Cape peninsula.

No amount of Church and NGO welfare work can undo this pattern. We need vision and political will if we want to get out of the quagmire.

**A friend and kindred spirit, also living in this unequal neighbourhood, is Melanie Steyn. She earned herself no brownie points amongst her neighbours when she recently had this article on WhatsApp published and in the Cape Times:**

*Dear WhatsApp Security Group*

*When I arrived at Simon's Town, I imagined that I would enjoy friendly neighbourliness. Instead, our WhatsApp security group has brought out the worst in us.*

*The first time I saw a post about passing "vagrants" I was horrified, because they were not given the benefit of the doubt, even for a moment. They were not men, not homeless people, just a menace. When I dared to post something about not losing our humanity, a neighbour nearly bit my head off. If I "needed to be perceived as" liberal, why didn't I buy them tickets back to the Eastern Cape? I was apparently starting a ghetto. Actually, one of the men told me he came from a Boland farm and during the drought he regretted it, because now he was often thirsty. He said that the Grootbaas, pointing to heaven, must know what he was doing, but he didn't understand it. He was like a child.*

*I remember my Cape Town childhood, with the flower-sellers in Adderley Street and vendors selling fruit and fish from their horse-carts. I remember District Six alive, and how easy it was to exchange banter in the streets. What bitter irony, now that apartheid has gone, that our city is moving towards more perfect apartheid – and by design. I would have expected far more happy integration by now, with skin colour becoming ever less important.*

*Instead, I am assaulted by images of families weeping for homes they are losing; still being evicted. Hang your head in shame, Cape Town. What monster could conceive of a place like Wolwerivier, while at the same time the powerful are assisted? It is an open secret that the present authorities have a plan: Cape Town is to become a city for the rich.*

*Salt River and Woodstock are the District Sixes of the DA. Quaint and beautiful semi-detached homes of working-class people are a hallmark of that area, and should be protected for their historical interest. But then, incredibly, not even the Bo-Kaap, our beautiful little Malaysia, was granted heritage status.*

*Further evidence of the nefarious plan to gentrify the whole of Cape Town is the neglect of the established areas for people of colour. The on-again off-again promises to develop the hopelessly over-populated Masiphumele is a case in point – it has been dragging on for 15 years since the first promises were made!*

*On Heritage Day I heard Felicity Purchase talk to people in St Francis Church, Simon's Town. Most of the people in the packed church had been bused in from Gugulethu to commemorate the forced removals about 50 years ago. She said, "We should never lose the love we have for each other, even if you have been moved far away." It was breath-taking hypocrisy. She said that apartheid had been "undefensible" but did not offer a shred of comfort or recompense from the present powers-that-be. She was prepared to exploit the generosity of spirit of the people and not prepared to examine her own behaviour for what was undefensible or lacking in love.*

*Cape Town was inhabited by the Khoena when Europeans arrived, and its history is one of streams of arrival: from Europe, from further north in Africa, from India, from West Africa and Madagascar, from St Helena, from Indonesia and Malaysia, and all these streams of diverse people, whether they came as servants of a commercial company, slaves or free men and women, built up the city we know today. Who are we of this generation to decide that it will now be a playground-cum-dormitory for the wealthy of the world? Every one of the groups that were thrown together here should have a space, and our city should be helping them all, but especially those who need it most. Let us build a city that reflects our history, and our post-apartheid heart.*

*Melanie Steyn  
Lecturer, Cornerstone Institute*



Mel's story appeared in the Cape Times

**A different view, by Solly Moeng. Read:**

<http://m24.6.evlink.net/servlet/link/3989/40254/30736941/647609>

**Ramaphosa: Growing anger by young Blacks against Whites with power:**

<http://m24.6.evlink.net/servlet/link/3989/40682/30736941/659337>

### **3. Bombs on Yemen manufactured near us. SOUTH AFRICAN AND GERMAN CULPABILITY**

The 'new' South Africa inherited the arms manufacturer, Denel, known as Armscor during apartheid. Amandla Mobi is SA's version of Avaaz. Their present petition campaign is to stop Saudi Arabia buying its way into Denel. Beyond Saudi Arabia, Germany's Rheinmetall have a stake in Denel, making bombs that are sent to Saudi and then dropped on Yemen. We should send the Germans packing whilst we are at it! Read:

**Amandla Mobi: The pressure on Pravin Gordhan to stop the Denel sale is working.**

We submitted your signature along with the signatures of thousands of amandla .mobi members to Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan. Government responded by announcing negotiations with Saudi Arabia have stopped [1]. **This is great momentum** but proudly South African weapons are still being sold to the Saudis and fueling the war, bloodshed and humxnitarian\* crisis in Yemen.

**If we keep up the pressure and recruit more people, our collective power will be so strong he will have to stop the sale, limiting the flow of weapons into Yemen. Can you recruit your friends and colleagues by sharing the campaign on social media?**

**Click here to share the campaign on Facebook:**

<https://web.facebook.com/sharer/sharer?u=https://www.facebook.com/amandlamobi/posts/175173409361207>

**Click here to share the campaign on twitter:**

<https://twitter.com/AmandlaMobi/status/1055770305225023489>

**SA Weapons are killing Yemen's people, ask Pravin Gordhan to stop selling part of Denel to Saudi Arabia**

**Click here to add your name**

**AMANDLA**  
action for mzanisi

Together for justice,

Khaliel for the amandla .mobi team.

*[1] Saudi stake in Denel is off, says minister, Dineo Bendile Mail and Guardian November 2018*

**4. Autumn leaves falling: The passing of Rev Chris Wessels, of Paddy Kearney, Mendi Msimang and Alex Boraine.**

Four associates from the heady days of the struggle passed away recently. Rev Chris Wessels served on the Christian Institute Board and Paddy Kearney was a close associate of Archbishop Denis Hurley, who worked in solidarity with Beyers Naudé. Both experienced detention without trial for their role in ending apartheid. Chris in particular suffered horrendous torture.

<https://www.iol.co.za/.../retired-moravian-minister-struggle-icon-chris-wessels-hailed-...>

<https://www.scross.co.za/2018/11/paddy-kearney-rip/>



Chris and Babs Wessels



Arch Denis Hurley with Paddy Kearney

The third leaf that fell is Mendi Msimang. It is worth saying these days, that Mendi belongs to the worthy, decent and humble-to-the-end ANC comrades. I worked closely with him in exile.



<https://www.iol.co.za/news/.../anc-mourns-gentle-giant-mendi-msimang-18407751>

And a fourth good man that left us is Alex Boraine. He will be remembered as a progressive voice in the Methodist Church and his role as Arch Tutu's deputy at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He was also an honest voice in parliament at one time.



<https://www.sahistory.org.za/people/alex-boraine>

## 5. Huffington Post. The making of a dissident Afrikaner; Lessons from Beyers Naudé for today's rebels. By Ruhan Fourie.



[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/2018/05/11/the-making-of-a-dissident-afrikaner-lessons-from-beyers-naude-for-todays-rebels\\_a\\_23432272/?fbclid=IwAR3oJFtOHwoGVap9DRkxW8EXDhQ-2HDo6hsRY011KMhsuERp7Rx2pMOB6unQ](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.za/2018/05/11/the-making-of-a-dissident-afrikaner-lessons-from-beyers-naude-for-todays-rebels_a_23432272/?fbclid=IwAR3oJFtOHwoGVap9DRkxW8EXDhQ-2HDo6hsRY011KMhsuERp7Rx2pMOB6unQ)

## 6. Fake News:

The far-right AfriForum argues that white farmers are being “slaughtered” in what they say is a politically and racially motivated campaign. Their shriek for support took them all the way to the White House. President Trump tweeted his support for them accordingly. To correct this propaganda read:

“In May 2017 *Africa Check* published a [fact sheet](#) on farm attacks and farm murders as well as an accompanying [article](#) by Kate Wilkinson on “Why calculating a farm murder rate in SA is near impossible”. In this latter article Wilkinson dismissed

claims that the murder rate of (commercial) farmers could be as high as 100 per 100 000. Her argument was that it was impossible to tell given the massive uncertainty around the size of the population affected. She noted that the total size of the population on commercial farms, according to a 2007 census, was 818,503 (including workers and others.) “If this farming population is used, the farm murder rate for 2015/16 would be 5.6 murders per 100,000 people living and/or working on farms registered to pay value-added tax. However, the total population of people living on farms and smallholdings, which do not pay value-added tax, will be larger.” She then cited the 2016 estimate in StatsSA’s Community Survey that there were 2.3 million households, with a population of 11 million, involved in agriculture. “If this figure is used”, she wrote, “the farm murder rate drops to 0.4 murders per 100,000 people who live on agricultural farms and smallholdings in South Africa”

## **7 • On Namibian land redistribution**

<https://theconversation.com/namibias-long-standing-land-issue-remains-unresolved-105301>

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