



PRESS RELEASE

NO EMBARGO

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AL JAMA-AH to host various commemoration programmes in honour of the young martyrs of 1976 and beyond

The Al Jama-ah party will be hosting various programmes to pay tribute to the heroic youth of 1976 and 1980s who played a major role in forcing the oppressive apartheid government to relinquish power.

The party's National Youth Day theme is **"Youth To Strive For True Liberation,"** deriving from the party's beliefs that youth should be the agents for change to become the future leaders of the country. The party's Premiere Youth Day event will be held in Paarl in the Drakenstein Municipality, Western Cape. Other events will be in Groutville in Stanger; Mtubatuba in Richards Bay; Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga; Bokmakierie in Athlone, Western Cape, and Dimbaza in the Eastern Cape.

We remember the heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifices with their lives: those shot dead by police, those tortured to death in detention; those hunted down along our borders and inside the country and mercilessly killed and maimed.

AL JAMA-AH salutes the Black People's Convention (BPC) and Black Consciousness Movement who played leading roles in the 1976 student revolt throughout the country. We remember students like Henry Isaacs, Peter Cyril Jones (fondly known as PC Jones); Steven Carolus and Johnny Issel who were instrumental in rallying student protests in the Western Cape.

We further salute the student leaders of 1976, martyrs Steven Biko, Mapetla Mohapi, Ongopotse Tiro, Khotso Seatlholo and many others. We also remember the young heroes killed in the Western Cape 1976 uprisings, Christopher Truter from Bonteheuwel, Nazeem Khan from Manenberg and many other young activists throughout the country.

Al Jama-ah calls on today's youth to take cognisance of the bravery of the youth of 1976 and 1980s. They were fed up with an oppressive government and stood up against it. Today's youth face different challenges such as crime, gangsterism, drugs, and unemployment.

We call on the youth to rise towards a socio-economically empowerment future. "There are many opportunities for the youth. Our young people must redirect their focus to socio-economic development, recognise their potential to become the future President and Deputy President of the country. They must adopt an active role as agents of change, development, and bring about genuine transformation in our country," says Hon. Ganief Hendricks, Member of Parliament and the party's leader. Hendricks was one of several teachers who put their jobs and lives at risk when he saved the lives of learners as they were confronted by heavily armed police.

For further information contact national spokesperson:

Adv. Shameemah Salie

Cell: 084 423 0476

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Room V410. Old Assembly Building, 120 Plein Street, Cape Town, 8001 | Tel: +27 21 403 2911 | Fax: +27 21 86 684 8625 | www.aljama.co.za



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