

PROFILE OF THE IMAM ABDULLAH HARON

1. Imam Abdullah HARON died of unnatural causes on the 27 September 1969, while he was held in detention under the Terrorism Act for subversive activities as a leader in the Muslim community in Cape Town.
2. Abdullah HARON was born on 8 February 1924 in Newlands, a suburb of Cape Town that was at one time largely populated by Muslims and people that the government classified as "coloured". He himself was classified "coloured".
3. His father's sister took care of him after the death of his mother at an early age, and it was under her care that he was taken to Mecca on three occasions.
4. He learned the Qu'ran at an early age and spent the years 1939 - 1941 in Saudi Arabia where he learned to speak Arabic and pursued his Islamic studies.
5. Abdullah HARON left formal schooling during his primary school years and went to work in his aunt's shop where he continued with Arabic and Islamic studies.

6. In March 1950, he married Galiema SADAN and a daughter was born to them in December 1950, a son in October 1955 and another daughter in September 1963
7. Abdullah HARON was elected Imam to the Stegman Road Mosque in 1955 and was to be responsible for the spiritual welfare of some 100,000 people in and around Cape Town.
8. As the already delicate situation placed more and more restrictions on his people, HARON began to extend his limits until his political and religious interests became one in the struggle for the liberation of his people.
9. By 1966 he was a member of the Pan-Africanist Congress dedicated to the overthrow of apartheid, and became a honorary editor of the Muslim News.
10. He and his family learned to live with the personal dangers which inevitably attended this involvement, for his every move came under the closest scrutiny, especially after his return from Mecca in December 1968, when he was visited frequently by the security police.
11. In May 1969, Imam Abdullah HARON was arrested under the Terrorism Act for subversive activity.
12. It is believed that the Imam's ill health was underestimated and that

both interrogation and the harsh conditions of detention brought about a deterioration in his health to the extent that, despite medical treatment after extensive injury, by doctors Ivor LANG and Benjamin TUCKER, he died on 27 September 1969.

13. When he died on Saturday 27 September 1969, after spending 133 days in detention, the post mortem report revealed the following:

a) 26 bruises ranging from as large as 10cm x 5cm, to as small as 1cm x 1cm.

b) the 7th rib was broken.

c) a haematoma 2.5cm x 2.5cm near the base of the spine.

d) at least 10 bruises had been sustained 7 - 10 days before death, mostly on the right leg.

e) at least 8 bruises, mostly on his legs, had been sustained 1, 2, or 3 days before death

f) the stomach was empty.

The official cause of death was given as "falling down stairs", and this was upheld during the extensive inquest proceedings, due to a lack of conclusive evidence.

14. In 1989 the Imam Abdullah Haron Foundation was founded, in remembrance of his death, for the promotion of Educational and Cultural advancement of the black and specifically also the Moslem

Community.

15. In 1991 Barney DASAI, author of the book *The Killing of the Imam*, requested that the Inquest be reopened. This was supported by Nic LEE, editor of *The South African Medical Journal*. As yet, no conclusion has been reached on this issue.
16. The Imam Abdullah HARON'S death is commemorated annually in Cape Town.