

QUESTION 2: HOW DID THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC) DEAL WITH THE MURDER OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS SUCH AS THE CRADOCK FOUR?

SOURCE 2A

The extract below focuses on the reasons for the formation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 1995.

The fall of apartheid and the numerous examples of state-mandated human rights abuses against its opponents raised a number of critical questions for South Africans at the time. Among the many issues to be addressed, was the need to create an institution for the restoration of justice that had been denied to many victims who were killed during apartheid rule. Much like the numerous truth commissions established in Eastern Europe and Latin America after the introduction of democracy in those regions, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa emerged from the Kempton Park negotiations between the National Party and the African National Congress as part of the negotiated transition to democracy in South Africa. It was founded with the aim of establishing a restorative, rather than retributive justice.

The goal of the TRC was not to prosecute and impose punishment on the perpetrators of the state's suppression of its opposition, but rather to bring closure to the many victims and their families in the form of full disclosure of the truth. The amnesty hearings undertaken by the TRC between 23 February and 6 March 1998 represent these aims, by offering full amnesty to those who came forward and confessed their crimes.

In the case of Johan van Zyl, Eric Taylor, Gerhardus Lotz, Nicholas van Rensburg, Harold Snyman and Hermanus du Plessis, the amnesty hearings offer more than just a testimony of their crimes. The amnesty hearings for the murders of a group of anti-apartheid activists known as the Cradock Four (Mathew Goniwe, Sparrow Mkonto, Fort Calata and Sicelo Mhlauli) show the extent of violence that the apartheid state used on its own citizens to silence any opposition and maintain its authority.

[From <https://www.sahistory.org.za/sites/default/files/SMU%20-%20Saifali%20Pardawala%20-%20Cradock%20Four%20Research%20Paper.pdf>. Accessed on 10 August 2019.]

2.1 Refer to Source 2A.

2.1.1 Why, according to the source, was the TRC established? (1 x 2) (2)

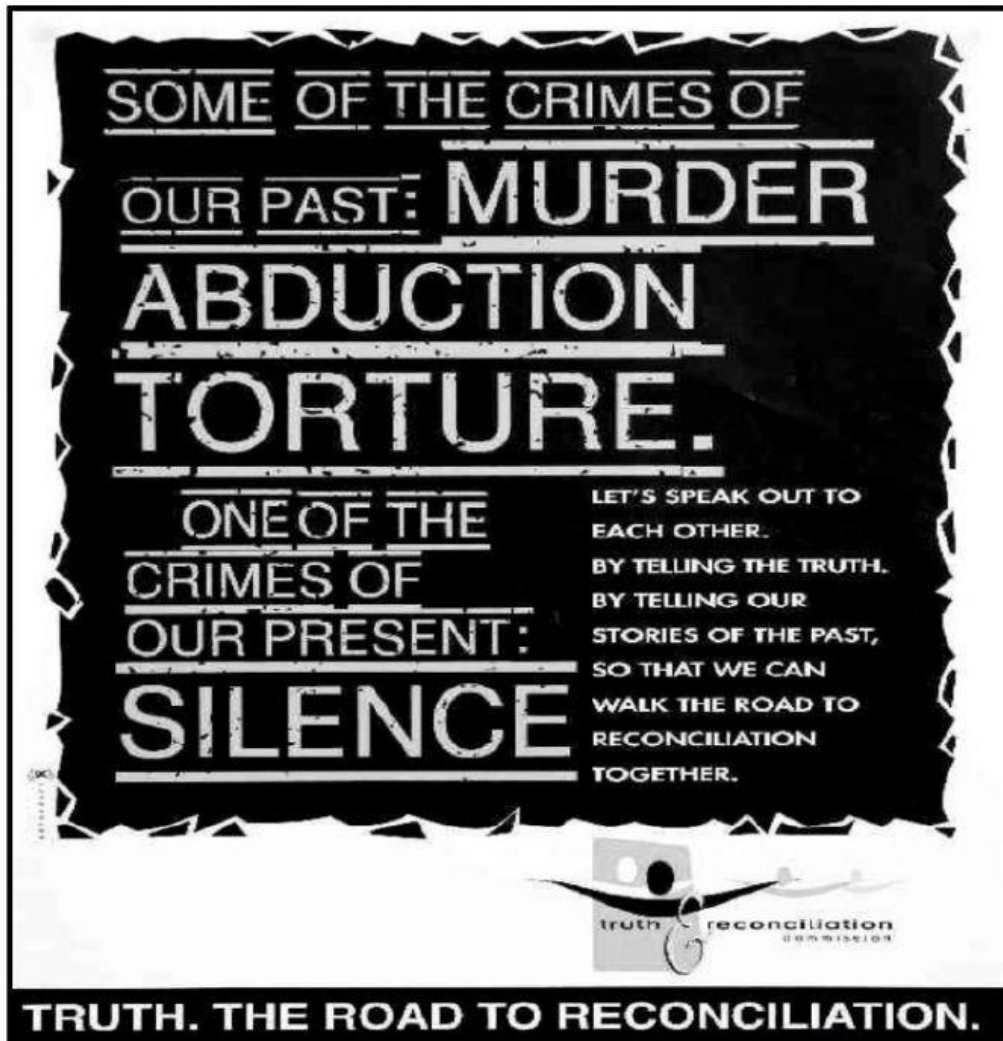
2.1.2 Explain why you think the TRC focused on restorative justice rather than retributive justice. (2 x 2) (4)

2.1.3 Define the concept *amnesty* in the context of the TRC. (1 x 2) (2)

2.1.4 Name any THREE security policemen in the source who applied for amnesty for the murder of the Cradock Four. (3 x 1) (3)

SOURCE 2B

The poster below was produced by the TRC. It invited both perpetrators and victims to appear before the TRC and testify about the human rights abuses that were committed between 1960 and 1994.



[From http://www.saha.org.za/news/2014/September/gallery_trc_posters.htm. Accessed on 20 August 2019.]

2.2 Consult Source 2B.

2.2.1 Comment on why the TRC decided to produce this poster. (2 x 2) (4)

2.2.2 Name any TWO crimes, in the source, that were committed in 'our past'. (2 x 1) (2)

- 2.2.3 Explain what is implied by the words, 'LET'S SPEAK OUT TO EACH OTHER ... SO THAT WE CAN WALK THE ROAD TO RECONCILIATION TOGETHER', in the context of the TRC hearings. (2 x 2) (4)

SOURCE 2C

The source below is part of a transcript that focuses on the testimony that Mr Lotz gave at the TRC hearings in Port Elizabeth on 4 March 1998. Mr Lotz was one of the six security policemen who applied for amnesty regarding the murder of the Cradock Four. Mr Booyens was the commissioner at the TRC hearings.

Mr Booyens: Did you know for what you were looking out?

Mr Lotz: We were waiting for a Honda Ballade (motor vehicle).

Mr Booyens: Yes, the vehicle passed you, then what happened?

Mr Lotz: And we followed this vehicle till we saw there was no traffic from either side. We put a blue light on our vehicle and we pulled that vehicle off the road and we told them that we were going to arrest them.

Mr Booyens: It was you and Taylor who put up the blue light?

Mr Lotz: That is correct.

Mr Booyens: And then? You told the people you were arresting them?

Mr Lotz: That is correct.

Mr Booyens: Did you recognise any of these people?

Mr Lotz: I immediately recognised Mr Goniwe and the other two people coming from Cradock. We had a description of Mr Mhlauli. I recognised him. I've seen a photograph of him, which was in Captain van Zyl's file.

Mr Booyens: What did you do then?

Mr Lotz: Two persons were put into Van Zyl's vehicle, they were handcuffed, another one was put in Taylor's vehicle and the other one we asked to remain behind in the Honda Ballade ... Captain van Zyl took petrol from his vehicle and I set the vehicle alight.

[From <http://www.justice.gov.za/trc/amntrans/pe/cradock9.htm>. Accessed on 17 August 2019.]

2.3 Read Source 2C.

2.3.1 Name the TWO activists in the source that Mr Lotz identified when he stopped the vehicle. (2 x 1) (2)

2.3.2 Using the information in the source and your own knowledge, explain why Mr Lotz set the motor vehicle alight. (2 x 2) (4)

2.3.3 Comment on the usefulness of this source for a historian researching the murder of the Cradock Four. (2 x 2) (4)

SOURCE 2D

The newspaper article below focuses on the amnesty application of the policemen who were accused of killing the Cradock Four. It appeared in the *Independent Online News* on 14 December 1999 and is titled 'No Amnesty for Killers of Cradock Four'.

Six former Port Elizabeth security policemen have been refused amnesty by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the murder of the Cradock Four.

The six security policemen are the late former security branch head Harold Snyman, Eric Alexander Taylor, Gerhardus Johannes Lotz, Nicolaas Janse van Rensburg, Johan van Zyl and Hermanus Barend du Plessis. Colonel Snyman gave the order for the killing of Mathew Goniwe, Sparrow Mkonto, Fort Calata and Sicelo Mhlauli in 1985. The four activists were abducted while returning to Cradock from a meeting in Port Elizabeth. Their bodies were found in the burnt-out remains of the vehicle in which they were travelling.

TRC spokesperson, Nhlanhla Mbatha, said last night that the security policemen were denied amnesty because the men never made a full disclosure regarding the killing of the Cradock Four. 'The commission could therefore not find a relationship between the act and political motives,' he said. Because of this, amnesty was refused. All three judges and the two panel members agreed with the decision.

Goniwe's eldest brother, 73-year-old Alex, said last night that he was pleased that the TRC had the courage to deny the six security policemen amnesty for the murder of the Cradock Four.

[From <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/no-amnesty-for-killers-of-cradock-four-23218>. Accessed on 15 August 2019.]

2.4 Study Source 2D.

2.4.1 What, according to the source, was the outcome of the TRC hearings regarding the Cradock Four? (1 x 1) (1)

2.4.2 Quote evidence from the source that suggests why the security police were denied amnesty by the TRC. (2 x 1) (2)

2.4.3 Explain why you think Goniwe's brother was pleased with the TRC's decision regarding the Cradock Four. (2 x 2) (4)

2.5 Refer to Sources 2B and 2D. Explain how the information in Source 2B supports the evidence in Source 2D regarding how the security policemen interrogated anti-apartheid activists. (2 x 2) (4)

2.6 Using the information in the relevant sources and your own knowledge, write a paragraph of about EIGHT lines (about 80 words) explaining how the TRC dealt with the murder of political activists such as the Cradock Four. (8)
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