

Guilt On His Mind After Death

YES, this is how we have all learned of the death of Moses Garoeb. Now that he is dead, Moses Garoeb will be a different man. Different from the Moses Garoeb who lived during the liberation movement. On the occasion of his death, may I convey, through this newspaper, my condolences to those who loved and appreciated him as father and husband.

May the "unusual" reaction to his death make them an exception. At this time of sorrow I do not want to add insult to injury of Mr Garoeb's family.

Moses Garoeb dies as a man with guilt on his mind. He has totally failed to openly admit that he was, together with others, responsible for murdering many innocent sons and daughters of the country. Although he died a troubled death, he is in his motherland. He was buried as a "hero" in disguise.

I am bitter. Moses Garoeb has left his political successors to inherit blood stained "files".

In that sense his death is untimely. They are left with unanswered questions about the Lubango genocide.

I have always urged Swapo leaders to clear this dark part of our recent history, but with no success.

Will we have to wait until the last butcher dies and been afforded a hero's funeral before we find answers to this question?

Today many families are crying for their loved ones who were murdered by the notorious Swapo security men in Lubango of which Moses Garoeb made a part. He has never been and will never be a hero as far as I am concerned. I have seen him victimising us. Lucky enough, I have survived to tell the tale. For as long as the fate of the Lubango victims is not

cleared I will die with a troubled heart and Namibia will never know genuine peace.

I know just as everyone does, that anyone, good or bad, can be named a hero as long as his/her comrades are in power. That is why the "heroes" of the apartheid era are now removed from the face of Namibia. Street names have been changed because friends of the apartheid "heroes" are no longer in power.

For those who glorify Moses Garoeb as a hero of the Namibian people, just remember that he directly participated in the brutal killings and extermination of my brothers and sisters in Lubango and Zambia.

We are still mourning their deaths. Our parents did not have the privilege to bury their beloved children and husbands.

**R GERTZE
EX-DETAINEE
WINDHOEK**