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Monday 20th January, 1997.

The Cosby family,

The news that your family has suffered the assassination of your 28 year old son ENIS is very painful.

(The letter E that commences all your children's names had our newspapers hazarding a very moral reason for this - may I suggest that it can confuse the sheriff of court who attaches property for bad debts)

I embrace you all - Enis's mother, dad and his sisters.

I dare not tell you how to handle your grief. I've gathered from your TV programme that you are practising christians and they have worked out an explanation of what happens to you after death. I hope your faith comforts you in these comfortless days and nights. However, please dont be afraid to cry. In fact we found it was the one sensible thing to do.

Today is 1 year 10 months since my Sha (33yrs) died from a medical accident. On Wednesday 15th January it was 7 years and 9 months since my son Sahdhan (28yrs) was assassinated by agents of the racist regime that parasited on all our lives for 3 centuries. Thursday 16th January it was 1yr 6 months since my nephew Tosh (29 yrs) died instantly in an accident. Time has done naught for our pain. Daily we awake to the horror and pain of their deaths.

Mothers, should never be called upon to bury the children they gave birth to. It is children who should bury their parents. That should be the order - what? But for us we were unlucky.

I took the liberty of writing to you as you came into all our lives and brought so much laughter. Some of us could not live in the style and affluence you brought with you. But you made us laugh, cry rarely and think sometimes. I cannot recall that you had to deal with death. - did you?

But more than your TV show was your support for our struggle to remove the racists from power which incidentally never had the support of the American Administration. Nobody up there called for the release of Nelson Mandela - YOU DID. You protested the detention of over 40,000 of our children in the 1985/6 period. You left keys at the South African Embassy asking them to open up our prisons and free our children.

THANK YOU - THANK YOU.

As a revolutionary I want to stretch out across the oceans that divide us to embrace you and to sob with you.

The right wing will use you shamelessly to prop up support for the death penalty. If the murder of your son is wrong, then it is wrong for the State to kill his murderer. I am asking my friend Monroe Gilmour to send you my letter to the director of Prosecutions after the assassination of my son. Good god it was not easy. On the contrary it was a traumatic experience.

The execution of the Rosenbergs in the sixties send shivers through my being even now.

Through and for you son help your country embrace civilised values. With your profile you could contribute so much to the wonderful work done by Amnesty. My friend Jack Healey headed the NY office and will help you through this difficult period.

I know you will not be able to read anything as horrible as the booklet I enclose. But leave it in the loo until you can read it. I think it might help.

My three score and 10 years are less than a year away, and in the struggle for democracy in our country I have had to deal with death continuously. I can give you no advise as to how to deal with your pain. But, be assured that we love you.

Sincerely

Phyllis Naidoo (Mrs)

