



COUNCIL
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE
SOUTH AFRICAN
CONSTITUTION

Media Statement

22 September 2016

Condolences on Allister Sparks passing

The Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution joins many others expresses its sadness at the passing of veteran journalist Allister Sparks earlier this week

Through his work as a journalist and editor in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, Mr Sparks played a critical role in exposing the evils of apartheid, and its impact on the daily lives of black South Africans in particular. This enabled the wider international community to be aware of the human suffering inflicted by the apartheid regime, and played a role in mobilising opposition to apartheid.

He pioneered a form of investigative journalism that uncovered some of the darkest secrets of the apartheid regime – including the murder of Steven Bantu Biko, as well as the covert activities of the apartheid government and the Afrikaner Broederbond.

Later, through the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism, which he founded, Mr Sparks built a legacy for the development of many of the young journalists who today report on our democracy. The freedom of the media that underpins our democratic society owes a debt of gratitude to him.

But he did not rest on his laurels; he continued to write until his death, authoring definitive articles and books -- keeping a vigilant eye as he probed the transition to democracy.

South Africa has lost an important voice in the national conversation around the state of our democracy and the many challenges that we face.

We convey our condolences to his family and friends.

Council for the Advancement of South African Constitution

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