



AL3066 - The TRC Faith Hearings Collection

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Title: The TRC Faith Hearings Collection
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Abstract: The records that comprise this collection are written submissions and transcribed testimonies of approximately thirty faith communities that were either presented to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) "Special Hearings: Faith Communities" that were held in East London from 17 to 19 November 1997, or which were a response to the letter of invitation sent to the faith communities by the TRC on 27 May 1997.

Introduction

The Research Institute for Christianity in Southern Africa (RICSAs) is based at the University of Cape Town (UCT). In 1997 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) commissioned RICSAs to advise it on setting up special hearings for the diverse faith communities of the country. The purpose of these hearings was to establish the role and position of these communities during the mandated period of investigation of the TRC. Additionally, the Commission tried to establish in how far religious communities contributed to the entrenchment or the demise of Apartheid. Professors John de Gruchy and James Cochrane produced the required document based on more than thirty submissions of the various faith communities of South Africa. RICSAs was also commissioned by the TRC to draft a report on the faith communities. The report – TRC FAITH COMMUNITIES REPORT – forms part of this collection, which also includes several papers authored by De Gruchy himself.

RICSAs was also tasked with drafting a report for inclusion in the TRC Final Report of 1998. The report is in Volume 4 Chapter 3 of the Final Report and is entitled "Institutional Hearing: The Faith Community".

De Gruchy, Cochrane and Stephen Martin, who had assisted with the drafting of the report, have subsequently jointly edited a book entitled "Facing the Truth: South African Faith Communities and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which includes the full RICSAs report as well as interpretative and analytical essays on the subject. The volume is published by David Philip Publishers, Cape Town in 1999.

Related Materials

AL3101: The Jamiatul Ulama Transvaal TRC Submission

AL3126: Confession and Reconciliation: A Challenge to Churches in South Africa [Conference]

Notes

During an audit of the collection in 2023, it was found that the TRC Faith Communities Report, the list of submissions, as well as a large number of the submissions were not included in the inventory. The collection was re-organised to include



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this material. The decision was also made to arrange the submissions and testimonies (B) to reflect the original order of these materials as set out in RICSA's list of submissions received (A2). Not all the submissions and testimonies listed in this document are included in the collection.

It should be noted that testimonies to the TRC included in the submissions are verbatim transcripts which had not been edited.

Inventory

A: Report and Submissions List

A1: TRC Faith Communities Report

[Circa 1998]

Included at the end are the following papers and articles by John W. de Gruchy:

"Is Reconciliation possible?" Discussion at the Deutsche Evangelischer Kirchentag, Leipzig, June 1997;

"The Rhetoric and Reality of Reconciliation" - Paper given at Conference on 'The Future of the Study of Theology and Religions', University of Cambridge, September 2000;

"Healing the past for the Sake of the Future" - German article "Die Kraft der Wahrheit, der Vergebung und der Suche nach Gerechtigkeit und Versöhnung in Südafrika" (1997);

"Forum Christen und Nichtchristen im Dialog: Ist Versöhnung möglich?" (Undated).

A2: List of submissions received

Compiled by the Research Institute of Christianity in Southern Africa (RICSA), the list includes written submissions and transcribed testimonies of approximately thirty faith communities.

B: Submissions

B1: Traditional Religion

B1.1: African Tradition Religion

B1.1.1: Testimony to the TRC by D.K. Koka

[18 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B2: Protestant Christianity

B2.1: Baptist Convention of South Africa

B2.1.1: Submission by Rev. Desmond Hoffmeister (General Secretary)

[19 November 1997]

B2.2: Baptist Union of South Africa

B2.2.1: Submission by Terry Rae (General Secretary)

[26 June 1997]

B2.2.2: Testimony to the TRC

[18 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B2.3: Belydende Kring

B2.3.1: Testimony to the TRC

[18 November 1997]



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Verbatim transcript.

B2.4: Church of England in South Africa

B2.4.1: Submission

[18 July 1997]

Signed by Joe Bell (Presiding Bishop)

B2.4.2: Testimony to the TRC

[17 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B2.4.3: Submission presented by Bishop Frank Retief - Testimony to the TRC

[17 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B2.5: Church of the Province of South Africa

B2.5.1: Submission by Bishop Michael Nuttall

[Undated]

This submission followed a previous submission by the Church of the Province of Southern Africa, dated 30 June 1997.

B2.5.2: Testimony to the TRC

[17 November 1997]

B2.6: Dutch Reformed Church

B2.6.1: English extract from the Afrikaans document "The Story of the Dutch Reformed Church's Journey with Apartheid 1960-1994 - a testimony and a confession", General Synodal Commission of the Dutch Reformed Church

B2.6.2: Testimony to the TRC

[19 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B2.6.3: Speech given on behalf of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa on occasion of the official centenary celebrations of the Reformed Church in Zimbabwe, by C.M. Pauw

[14 September 1991]

B2.6.4: "Witness of Dutch Reformed Church Delegates"

[Undated]

Reflecting on the International Global Consultation on World Evangelism (Pretoria), 1997. Signed by Drs Louis Louw, Danie Nel and Revs Sampie Niemans and Leon Westhof.

B2.7: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Natal-Transvaal)

B2.7.1: Re-submission, signed by D.R. Lilje (Bishop)

[19 March 1998]

B2.8: Institute for Contextual Theology

B2.8.1: Further Submission

[Undated]

Submitted by Rev. Wesley M. Mabuza (general Secretary) and McGlory Speckman (Executive Member).

B2.8.2: Testimony to the TRC

[17 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B2.9: Methodist Church of South Africa

B2.9.1: Submission by H.M. Dandala (Presiding Bishop)

[August 1997]

B2.9.2: Testimony to the TRC



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[17 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B2.10: Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa

B2.10.1: Submission

[18 August 1997]

Signed by the Moderator, the General Secretary and the Director of Justice and Social Responsibility Division.

B2.10.2: Testimony to the TRC

[17 November 1997]

B2.11: Reformed Presbyterian Church of South Africa

B2.11.1: Submission by The Right Revd Dr G.M. Khabela (moderator), The Revd D.M. Soga and The Revd J.V. Mdlalose (General Secretary)

[Undated]

B2.11.2: Testimony to the TRC

[18 November 1997]

verbatim transcript.

B2.12: Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

B2.12.1: Submission by the Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting

[June 1997]

Attached to cover letter by Jeremy Routledge, 9 July 1997.

B2.13: Seventh Day Adventist Church

B2.13.1: Statement of Confession

[Undated]

B2.14: South African Council of Churches

B2.14.1: Submission submitted by B.H. Bam (General Secretary)

[August 1997]

B2.14.2: Testimony to the TRC

[17 November 1997]

B2.15: United Congregational Church of Southern Africa

B2.15.1: Submission by B.T. Maluleka (Administrative Secretary)

[8 August 1997]

B2.15.2: Submission by Revs Des van der Water and Steve de Gruchy on behalf of UCCSA

[October 1997]

B2.15.3: Testimony to the TRC

[17 November 1997]

B2.16: United Reformed Church of South Africa

B2.16.1: Submission by James Buys (Moderator - General Synod)

[July 1997]

B3: Historically African Churches

B3.1: Council of African Instituted Churches

B3.1.1: Testimony to the TRC

[18 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B3.2: Zion Christian Church

B3.2.1: Testimony to the TRC

[19 November 1997]

B3.3: Ibandla LamaNazaretha



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B3.3.1: Testimony to the TRC by M.P. Mpanza
[18 November 1997]

B4: Catholicism

B4.1: Catholic Church of South Africa

B4.1.1: Submission
[15 August 1997]
Unsigned.

B4.1.2: Testimony to the TRC
[17 November 1997]
Verbatim transcript. Wrongly titled 'Church of England in South Africa.' Should read 'Catholic Church of South Africa.'

B5: Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity

B5.1: Apostolic Faith Mission

B5.1.1: Submission by I.S. Burger (President)
[4 August 1997]

B5.1.2: Testimony to the TRC
[19 November 1997]
Verbatim transcript.

B5.2: Rhema Bible Church / International Federation of Christian Churches (IFCC)

B5.2.1: Testimony to the TRC, represented by Pastor Ray McCauley
[19 November 1997]
Verbatim transcript.

B5.3: Hatfield Christian Church

B5.3.1: Submission
[16 September 1997]
Attached to cover letter by Dr Graham Catto (for the Steering Committee).

B5.4: The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA)

B5.4.1: Testimony to the TRC
[19 November 1997]
Verbatim transcript

B6: Islam

B6.1: Muslim Judicial Council

B6.1.1: Testimony to the TRC, represented by Imam Gassan Solomon.
[19 November 1997]
Verbatim transcript.

B6.2: Call of Islam

B6.2.1: Testimony to the TRC by Farid Esack
[18 November 1997]

B7: Judaism

B7.1: Chief Rabbi of South Africa

B7.1.1: Submission by the Jewish Religious Community
[30 June 1997]
Signed by C.K. Harris (Chief Rabbi).

B8: Hinduism

B8.1: South African Hindu Maha Sabha

B8.1.1: Testimony to the TRC



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[18 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B9: The Bahai Faith

B9.1: Submission from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is in South Africa

[15 September 1997]

Attached to cover letter by Brett Hone

B9.2: Testimony to the TRC

[18 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B10: Other Submissions

B10.1: World Conference on Religion and Peace

B10.1.1: 'Justice, Retribution and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission' by Iman Rashied Omar

[7 November 1997]

B10.1.2: Reconciliation and nation Building: A proposal for People of faith on December 16

[Circa 1997]

B10.2: Nico Smith - Open Letter to Pastors (Nico Smith and Moss Nthla): Testimony to the TRC

[19 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B10.3: Reformed Church / Gereformeerde Kerk - Unofficial representation by Profs. van der Walt and Venter: Testimony to the TRC,

[19 November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B10.4: Women in Religion

B10.4.1: Submission to the TRC Faith Communities Hearings

[Circa 1997]

Presumably by Cathy P. Makhenya

B10.4.2: Women's Submission: Testimony to the TRC, represented by Cathy P. Makhenya and Dr. Brigalia Bam

[November 1997]

Verbatim transcript.

B10.5: Submission by the Rev. Douglas Torr

[Circa July 1997]

B10.6: Submission by Lesley Morgan

[Circa June 1997]