



AL3135 - The Gertrude Fester Collection

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Abstract: In May 1988, Gertrude Fester was detained and subsequently put on trial with other political activists in a trial known as the 'Yengeni 14'. In March 1990 charges were dropped and Fester was released. She subsequently initiated the Women's Education Artistic Voice and Expressions (WEAVE), a black women's writing collective. Her paper entitled 'Apartheid's Residue - women's lives, struggles and testimonies: challenging patriarchal lenses' is a personal account of Fester's own detention in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act and an interrogation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) from a gender perspective.

Introduction

Gertrude Fester is an academic, a gender and political activist and writer. In May 1988 Fester was detained for the recruitment to and promotion of the African National Congress.

She was put on trial with thirteen other political activists in a trial that had come to be known as 'The Yengeni 14'. In March 1990 charges were dropped and Fester was released.

Fester initiated the Women's Education Artistic Voice and Expressions (WEAVE), a black women's writing collective that encourages and facilitates women's writing as a means to deal with challenges that are specific to the situation of women in South Africa.

It is within these contexts that this paper, which was written in July/August 2001, is to be understood.

Related Materials

The collection can also be accessed online at <http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/>

A guide to archival resources relating to South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission can also be found at: http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/trc_directory.pdf

The following collections resulted from the TRC Archival Audit:

AL3021: Sooka, Yasmin

AL3059: Dealing with the Past (Conference of Protestant Academy of Bad Boll, Germany)

AL3060: The State vs. P.W. Botha and Appeal

AL3061: Auditor General Reports on the Accounts of the TRC.

AL3062: Office of the Public Protector, Synopsis of Cases regarding Complaints involving the TRC



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- AL3063: Documents relating to the TRC Special Hearings on Health
- AL3066: Materials Relating To TRC Faith Hearings
- AL3068: Harris, Verne
- AL3100: Submission to the TRC concerning Relevance of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the Commissions Mandate
- AL3101: Jamiatul Ulama Transvaal, TRC Submission
- AL3102: Amnesty International TRC Materials
- AL3103: Institute for Healing Memories (IHOM) TRC Materials
- AL3110: Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) TRC Materials
- AL3115: Argall, Jane
- AL3116: Cherry, Janet
- AL3118: Marcus, Gilbert
- AL3119: Sheila Meintjies and Beth Goldblatt
- AL3120: Ross, Fiona
- AL3121: Julian Knight and Rudolph Jansen
- AL3125: The Challenge of Reconciliation: A Response of Church and Lay Persons to the TRC
- AL3126: Confession and Reconciliation: A Challenge to Churches in South Africa
- AL3128: Terreblanche, Christelle
- AL3129: Zapiro TRC Collection
- AL3130: African National Congress (ANC) TRC Materials
- AL3131: Cosatu Submission to the TRC
- AL3132: Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) Submission to the TRC
- AL3134: Iphepha Ndaba Newsletters from the Western Cape
- AL3135: Fester, Gertrude
- AL3136: Villa-Vicencio, Charles
- AL3137: Behr, Mark
- AL3141: Human Rights Watch Materials
- AL3142: NGO Working Committee on Reparations Materials
- AL3143: IDASA Sound Recordings Relating to the TRC

Notes

Materials collected from TRC Archival Audit.

The TRC Archival Audit

Between 2003 and 2006, SAHA and Historical Papers, University of Witwatersrand embarked on a project to locate, retrieve and make available records relating to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC). The project entailed conducting an archival audit of all existing TRC records in order to identify and locate documentation in danger of being lost.

In the process of conducting the archival audit, SAHA and HP located many collections from individuals and organizations that participated in the TRC process, including this collection. Selections from these materials as well as TRC related material found in the freedom of Information Collection and other pre-existing SAHA and HP collections, were digitized and can be accessed online at <http://truth.wwl.wits.ac.za/>



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Inventory

A: Paper

A1: "Apartheid's Residue - women's lives, struggles and testimonies: challenging patriarchal lenses", by Gertrude Fester.