



Chris Hani

# Chris Hani family calls for new investigation of assassination plot

**Some of the men who escaped conviction for the conspiracy to assassinate Chris Hani 14 years ago are now living freely in Britain.**

**In this special six-page feature Gerry Gable exposes another of the men who aided the conspiracy and reveals the reaction of South African intelligence after we uncovered the South African terrorist connections at the heart of the BNP.**

(below) Chris Hani as a young activist for a free South Africa  
(below right) Chris Hani's mother Mary who struggled to bring her family up with dignity



**F**ourteen years after the assassination of Chris Hani, his family and former comrades have joined Searchlight in demanding a reinvestigation of the conspiracy against those fighting to overthrow South Africa's apartheid regime.

Janusz Walus and Clive Derby-Lewis were sentenced to death for the murder. Their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment after the death penalty was abolished in South Africa in 1995 by the democratic government, under the new Constitution that they had actively opposed.

The two were part of a group of conspirators drawn from the South African far right, including shadowy figures working for the apartheid state's intelligence services. They were the only two to be convicted, despite clear evidence against others involved in the plot.

Hani, 51, was on a hit list of leading



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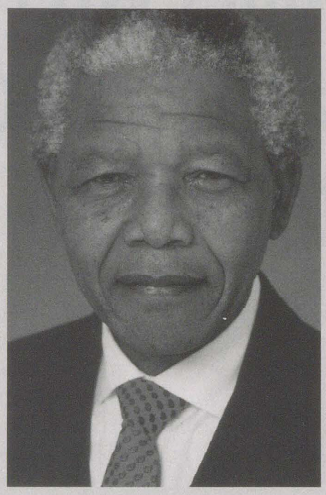
Today, an unforgivable crime has been committed. The calculated, cold-blooded murder of Chris Hani is not just a crime against a dearly beloved son of our soil. It is a crime against all the people of our country. A man of passion, of unsurpassed courage, has been cut down in the prime of his life.

Chris Hani is known to all of us, loved by millions, hated only by those who fear the truth.

We say to all South Africans, black and white, that day of truth will dawn.

Chris spent his life fighting for freedom, democracy and justice.

It was this passion for liberty that persuaded him, at an early age, to commit himself fully to the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party.



Chris Hani knew from personal experience the pain of deprivation and social inequality. An erudite scholar who could have chosen a less arduous path, he nonetheless selflessly chose the often thankless task of being a freedom fighter. He shared the trials and tribulations of three decades of exile. During that time he served the cause of the liberation movement with distinction, earning the respect and love of millions in our country. His death demands that we pursue that cause with even greater determination.

*Nelson Mandela, ANC President, addressing the nation on the day Chris Hani was assassinated*

ANC members and trade unionists, including Nelson Mandela, soon to become President of post-apartheid South Africa. Some saw him as a political rival to Mandela but he was crucial in bringing the armed wing of the ANC to the negotiating table. Many hoped he would become the deputy President, of the country he had fought so hard to free, and one day the President.

Had more of those on the list been murdered the new state might have been still born or descended in to a bloody civil war.

Martin Thembebile (Chris) Hani was born in June 1942 in a small rural town in Transkei where he had to walk 25 km each day to school and back and the same distance on Sunday to the Catholic church. His father, a migrant worker in the Transvaal mines, sent what money he could back to the family, but his mother had to work on a subsistence farm to supplement the family income.

An educationally very bright child, he went to university at Fort Hare where he studied modern and classical literature in English, Greek and Latin.

At 15 he joined the ANC Youth League and as a student was very active in protests against the Bantu Education Act, which imposed

apartheid in tertiary education and stopped black students attending white universities.

After graduating he joined Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the armed wing of the ANC, where he rose quickly through the ranks. He played a brave role in fighting for the overthrow of the Smith regime in what was then Rhodesia.

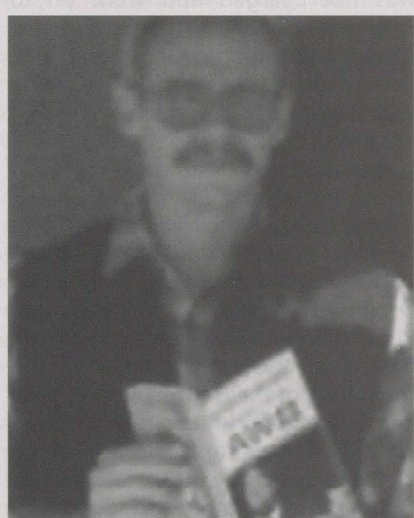
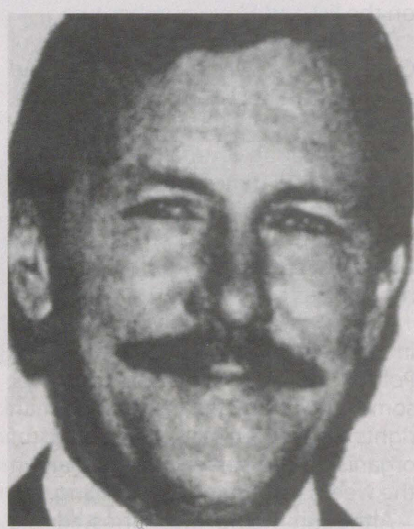
He had gone into exile in Lesotho in 1963 after being arrested several times under the Suppression of Communism Act. From there Hani organised units of the MK for operations in South Africa and became the target for several assassination attempts. He eventually moved to the ANC's headquarters in Zambia and became the head of the MK.

After the banning order against the ANC was lifted in 1990, he returned to South Africa and worked closely with Joe Slovo, the General-Secretary of the South African Communist Party. The following year Hani took over as General-Secretary after Slovo announced that he had cancer.

Hani then devoted himself to campaigning for the cessation of the armed struggle, a negotiated end to apartheid and the creation of a democratic state.

On 10 April 1993 he was accosted outside his home in Dawn Park, a

Clive Derby-Lewis (top) and Janusz Walus were the only ones convicted for the murder



racially mixed suburb of Boksburg near Johannesburg, by Janusz Walus, an anti-communist Polish immigrant. Walus fired five shots at close range hitting him in the head. Hani died on the spot.

Walus fled the scene and was arrested nearby shortly afterwards.

The pistol had been given to him by Clive Derby-Lewis, a senior South African Conservative Party MP. Reports said the gun belonged to Derby-Lewis but as we reveal later on these pages, it had been part of a haul of weapons stolen from a South African Air Force base.

Derby-Lewis was also president of the far-right Western Goals Institute, which brought together European nazis, Central American death squad leaders and British ultra-right MPs.

The far-right conspirators had directed Walus to kill Hani, who was a number three on the hit list that was a key part of their plot to disrupt the negotiations that were to end apartheid. Mandela was number one on the list and Slovo number two.

The hit list was in the possession of Gaye Derby-Lewis, wife of Clive and a fanatical racist and antisemite. Clive Derby-Lewis had named Arthur Kemp, a young journalist with South African intelligence service links, as the author of the list. Although Kemp admitted writing the list, Gaye Derby-Lewis testified that it was for her use in her work as a journalist.

Kemp, who had served as a sergeant in the feared South African Security Police, which was responsible for some of South Africa's worst human rights abuses, was also suspected of organising the surveillance of Hani in the weeks leading up to his killing.

Although Kemp was arrested, he was not charged and went on to pursue a career in the intelligence services of the new post-apartheid South Africa. Gaye Derby-Lewis, who was suspected of manipulating her weak husband to take part in the conspiracy, was acquitted and later emigrated to Australia.

After the overthrow of the apartheid regime, Walus and Derby-Lewis applied for amnesty from Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the basis that they had only acted on the orders of the Conservative Party – known as the Eichmann defence from his trial in Israel for being one of the architects of the Nazi Holocaust. Eichmann's argument failed and he was executed under a special provision that permitted the death penalty in his case.

Derby-Lewis and Walus were no more successful with it than Eichmann had been. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission refused the applications, ruling that they were not merely obeying orders but motivated by racism.

Hani's family, comrades in the ANC and South African trade union movement, and the South African Communist Party are now demanding answers about the roles played by Kemp, Gaye Derby-Lewis and the South African intelligence services

## How a terrorist killer was welcomed to Britain



Shot at close range Chris Hani died on the spot.

both under apartheid and after its overthrow.

Duma Nkosi, a senior ANC member and Mayor of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, where Hani was killed, welcomed Searchlight's reinvestigation of the assassination conspiracy and the rogue elements within the South African intelligence services.

He told Searchlight: "As the Executive Mayor of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, I can commit to facilitate with the ANC national leadership to receive any information that can assist in bringing more understanding to the case of the Freeman of the City who was assassinated in our community and laid to rest in our municipal area."

Today the atmosphere in South Africa is as delicate as it was in the wake of Hani's assassination and other acts of terror from the far right and intelligence services in the dying days of the apartheid regime.

In the same way that sections of the intelligence services then were involved in a conspiracy to strangle the new democratic government at birth, rogue elements now are trying to convince the South African people that some of the most honourable and decent senior members of the ANC and trade union movement are plotting to overthrow the present government because they have voiced concern about the corruption that reaches the highest levels of the state.



Chris Hani

In Britain: Leor arc Michael Veenendaal



Veenendaal applied for an amnesty to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which had the job of investigating crimes committed under apartheid. The Commission refused on the grounds that it could not intervene in alleged crimes committed in another country.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission also reported that Veenendaal was one of three men who carried out a raid in 1991 on a South African Air Force base. It was a gun stolen in this raid that Janusz Walus used to assassinate Chris Hani in April 1993.

Veenendaal, his wife and three children were all born in South Africa. He did not appear to have any of the type of family connections with the UK that have allowed many white South Africans to settle here since the end of apartheid. It is unclear quite why the Foreign Office, headed by the late Robin Cook, or the Home Office under Jack Straw might have allowed Veenendaal to stay in the UK at a time when the Interpol warrant was still active. Possibly they accepted without question his story that he had been a military intelligence operative and was now being persecuted for having only followed orders, the "Eichmann defence" that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had already rejected.

His presence in the UK was first picked up by *The Sunday Telegraph*, which published a story about him on 13 June 1999. When in 2003 a reporter from *The Mail on Sunday* turned up at his home in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, Veenendaal grabbed him saying: "I have a family. You're going to find yourself in a negative position."

The press exposure did Veenendaal no harm. The only consequence was that the local rugby club suspended his membership for a time after *The Mail on Sunday* focused on his work coaching boys' rugby.

Veenendaal, who now has residency status in the UK, works for Cambridgeshire County Council's Education ICT Service as a technical services manager.

He is well known to Arthur Kemp, another man implicated in the Hani assassination, from the days when Kemp was hanging around the AWB to write his book and Veenendaal was acting as the personal bodyguard of Eugene Terre-Blanche, the neo-Nazi leader of the AWB. Terre-Blanche described Veenendaal as "my little fanatic" because he was so extreme and violent.

Veenendaal's gang of terrorists included German neo-nazis and a man called Darryl Stopforth, thought to be British. Stopforth was one of the three men charged in Namibia for the attack on the UNTAG base. He escaped custody and fled the country alongside Veenendaal.

We understand that a warrant still exists in South Africa for Veenendaal's arrest and that requests to the British High Commission in Pretoria about him may have fallen on deaf ears.

With a British government and Home Secretary rightly concerned with the presence in this country of people who plot terrorism, it is very strange indeed why this double killer is allowed to remain here. Searchlight has asked the government under the Freedom of Information Act for further details about Veenendaal's presence in the UK. We have also asked the former Home Secretary Jack Straw, who has such a good track record of opposing racism and fascism, for his explanation of what went wrong on his watch ten years ago.

## South African intelligence officer makes failed attempt to entrap Searchlight

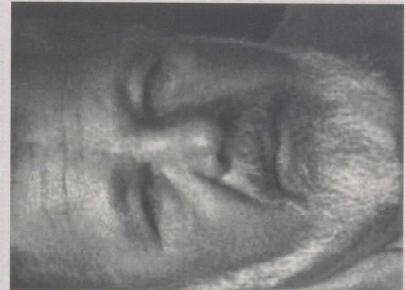
Eleven years ago, when Searchlight first exposed the existence of a rat line of killers and saboteurs that ran from mainland Europe via Britain to the newly democratised South Africa, it was clear that a continuing crisis existed in that country's security and intelligence services which had started during the dying days of the apartheid regime. The assassination of Chris Hani, a leading ANC member, in 1993 and a wave of bombings appeared linked to people who had worked for the racist regime.

After the fall of apartheid some of its old apartheidniks were embraced by the new intelligence services, clearly as part of a deal to make use of their experience and expertise. What seems to have been overlooked, or deliberately ignored, is that some of those who continued to give their services were more than just professionals. They were killers and torturers who had originally been employed to subvert and spy on students, academics, trade unionists and large sections of both the black and the white communities.

One example was the former Dutch mercenary Ronnie Deuster, who had served in the Balkans during the bloody conflagrations there after the collapse of Yugoslavia as a state. When he was looking for fresh fields in which to kill, he found his way to South Africa on two occasions, and was employed to join groups organising assassinations and sabotage.

At that time a major plot was under way to kill Nelson Mandela, the South African President. It was no great surprise when we exposed the role in it of British nazis associated with the elite nazi group the League of St George and former activists in the National Front, forerunner to the British National Party and the leading racist party at the time. What shocked us was the involvement of South African intelligence operatives such as Arthur Kemp and Cliff Saunders, who suddenly popped up in the UK and Germany.

Kemp, who is now living in England and is active in the BNP, was able to open doors with his book about the South African neo-nazi AWB. The nazi



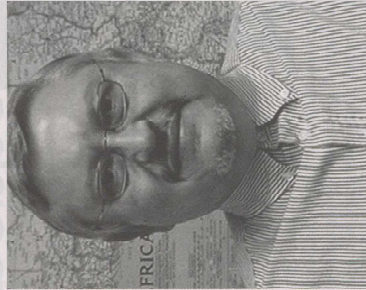
NPD in Germany loved it and him. He went on to write a massive tome *The March of the Titans* first published as a hardback book and then on the internet.

In March this year we returned to the story because Kemp and Lambertus "Bep" Nieuwhof, who had a conviction and 12-month sentence in South Africa for a terrorist crime, were both occupying highly placed and sensitive positions in the BNP.

Searchlight's exposé prompted a flurry of activity stemming from South Africa.

It started with an approach from Deuster, who told us that he had now returned to live in South Africa.

AWB leader Eugene Terre-Blanche



He appeared to be trying to track the movements of one of our team whom he knew from 11 years ago when he was a paid informant of ours.

He even suggested that he might be able to help us with "the type of work I used to do", which broadly amounted to killing people. We ignored these offers as well as his attempts to use us to get in touch with a former British police officer.

What followed proved the involvement of the South African intelligence services in rushing to protect Kemp and Nieuwhof.

Two sister organisations of Searchlight in the Netherlands and Germany received emails from a man called Francois Strauss. He described himself as "a member of management of the South African National Intelligence Coordinating Committee (NICOC), which is a statutory body put in place after our first democratic elections in 1994, to coordinate intelligence produced by the South African intelligence community.

He eventually contacted our



publisher by email with a very strange request for a representative of a major state intelligence service.

What he wanted to know was whether we could provide training for some members of his team. He wanted them to gain a working knowledge on how to tackle South Africa's enemies in the UK and Europe. He wrote that he believed we had a similar analytical approach to the issue as himself.

He even sent a brief CV of himself complete with photo, assuming it is actually him. It was clear he had served both the old and new South African governments.

We told him that we had experience of training police officers and of research projects for the European Parliament. We explained that if we had a better idea of what he was looking for we might be able to help, but we would wish to undertake any training in the UK or South Africa.

On advice from our ANC contacts we asked why he could not obtain the required training from the Institute for Strategic Studies, (ISS) which carries out research and analysis for the South African intelligence services.

His shock response was to attack his own colleagues as effectively useless, this in an email to someone who was a complete stranger to him. "Perhaps you are not as well informed as to the capacity of this institute," he wrote. "The ISS... have been contacted, but their knowledge on the subject is, well, anecdotal to be diplomatic. They are in no position to offer training that would add value to our efforts."

By this time he was getting pushy, saying that his people had to obtain visas and make flight arrangements and he needed to get moving on this. Alarm bells had gone off at Searchlight after the first approach, but



Chris Hani

Arthur Kemp (far left) and Lambertus "Bep" Nieuwhof, South African intelligence assets (below) Francois Strauss, renegade intelligence officer?

now we smelt a very large rat. Shortly afterwards he gave us the following list of the areas in which he wanted us to train his team, one of which would have contravened British criminal law:

- Techniques in spotting activities of these people when it is still low-keyed;
- Techniques in sporting support by elements in official state departments;
- Deep access to the Internet sites used by the extreme right;
- Strategic analysis pertaining specifically to the extreme right – not general strategic analysis;
- Socio-political programmes to neutralise hate crimes stemming from actions by the extreme right.

Searchlight immediately sought contact with a representative of the South Africa's security service stationed in this country. After a meeting lasting over an hour we handed over a large dossier of material we had gathered on Kemp, Nieuwhof, Deuster, Strauss and Leonard Veenendaal.

His first reaction was to suggest that this was all some kind of hoax. We pointed out that Strauss was writing to us from a genuine NICOC email address. He then promised a quick response. When, after hearing nothing, we contacted him again, he became obstructive about Veenendaal, said the whole matter was under investigation and promised an initial response within two weeks.

After the two weeks were up we contacted him for a progress report. He replied that he was leaving on a month's leave.

So we still have nothing from the South African security services about what appears to be an unofficial operation by a rogue element, but a growing clamour for answers from within South Africa itself.