

Good evening,

We gather tonight to remember a journalist of brave and independent spirit who was assassinated for investigating corruption.

Our University, the University of the Witwatersrand, hosts this annual solidarity lecture in memory of a graduate who fought for media freedom in this region, and who gave his life for it. This year, we are joined for the first time, by the Committee for the Protection of Journalists, the New York-based CPJ, as co-hosts, and we thank them for their support and participation. We know what important work they do to protect journalists on our continent and we are pleased to be linking up with them.

Carlos Cardoso was born in Mozambique, but attended school in Witbank, near Johannesburg. In 1973 he enrolled at this university to study the Humanities. He quickly became prominent as a vocal and passionate anti-apartheid and anti-colonial campaigner.

He was elected to the Wits SRC in 1975; once in office, Cardoso was vocal in his support for Frelimo, a brave position to take in apartheid South Africa. In late 1975, the security police raided Cardoso's flat in Braamfontein and arrested him; within 24 hours, he was deported to Maputo.

He was given a special dispensation to complete his degree in Maputo.

On his return home, Cardoso became a junior reporter on a weekly newspaper, Tempo, before joining Radio Mozambique in 1978. Two years later, he became the director of Mozambique's government news agency, AIM. In 1982, he incurred the wrath of President Samora Machel by running a story on the rebel movement Renamo bringing the issue into the open for the first time. For this exposé, he was jailed for six days.

Machel later came to respect and trust Cardoso enough to bring him into a select inner circle of journalists.

Devasted by Machel's death in an air crash in 1986, Cardoso criticised Frelimo by writing that many senior people in its ranks no longer served its interests but only their own. In the late '80s, he pushed for a more independent, robust media within Mozambique, and this led to growing tension between him and government. In 1989, depressed and exhausted, he resigned as AIM director and, frustrated by lack of media freedom, dropped out of journalism altogether, took to art and held an exhibition of his work.

Mozambique's passed media freedom laws in 1992, opening up the industry for the first time, and Cardoso was part of a group of journalists called MediaCo-op who launched the country's first independent publication, MediaFax. According to biographer Paul Fauvet, Cardoso wept with joy when he saw that some of the country's best journalists were joining this new venture.

Mediafax consisted of just four pages that were faxed out every night, and it became an instant success as the only independent media voice in that country. According to Fauvet: "It was a voice located on the left wing of Frelimo, but quite prepared to denounce government blunders or abuses. And it was sharply written." And although some in the ruling party supported press freedom and welcomed criticism, others responded with harassment and even bomb threats.

Cardoso's chief concern was with the issue of corruption in Mozambique and he exposed the country's growing drug-smuggling syndicates, fraud and embezzlement involving business people and politicians.

Carlos also became active in the "Together For the City Movement" in Maputo, winning a seat on the city council as an independent. His last editorial before his assassination

was an attack on the city council for failing to provide adequate basic services. He was also investigating a 1996 corruption scandal involving the state-controlled Commercial Bank of Mozambique.

On November 22, 2000, Cardoso was gunned down in the street in Maputo.

Carlos' colleague Fernando Lima wrote shortly after his death that Cardoso was sympathetic to Frelimo, but did not hesitate to criticize party leaders in print. He was equally unsparing of the rebel group Renamo. I knew Carlos as a man with a passion for discussion and argument, always ready to engage energetically, exchange and thrash out ideas. He was fervent in his anti-colonialism and his passion for a free Mozambique, and had an indomitable independent spirit.

So we gather to remember Carlos not just a fierce and brave investigative journalist, but one who came to symbolise the spirit of public service which is at the heart of great journalism.

Fauvet writes: "Cardoso came to embody all that was best in Mozambican journalism, all that was honest, questioning, combative. He was admired, respected, loved - even among those subjected to withering criticism in his paper."

At his funeral, President Joaquim Chissano said: "We were used to arguing with Cardoso. We argued with him because he raised pertinent questions that demand the attention of all of us. He forced us all to think ... Today, when he is no longer with us ... who else will raise the questions with the force that he raised them?"

"He forced us all to think." That must be the highest praise for a journalist.

It is fitting that at a conference of investigative journalists from across the continent, we remember a journalist who was killed in the line of duty.

Censorship takes many forms, some subtle, some brutal, and murder is the ultimate silencing. In remembering Carlos, we are honouring all those of independent and courageous spirit, all those who investigated and expose corruption, and all victims of censorship.

I am going to hand over now to Angela Quintal of the CPJ, who will introduce our panel of speakers.