Restorative / Pro-amnesty

***Robert McBride***



During apartheid, he was a member of the Umkhonto we Sizwe the armed wing of the ANC (African National Congress). He grew up in Wentworth, a racially segregated suburb. He developed political views at an early age due to influences from his father. He is best known for his leadership of the bombing of the “Why Not” Restaurant and Magoo’s Bar in Durban June 14, 1986. Three white women were killed and 69 people were injured. He was sentenced to death and released in 1992 after his actions were classified as politically motivated but, he was granted amnesty at the TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission). After apartheid, McBride was a candidate for the position of chief of Ekurhuleni’s metro police. The Citizen newspaper opposed his appointment and regarded McBride as “Blatantly unsuited” and referenced the bombings for which he had been granted amnesty. McBride sued the paper for defamation arguing that when someone is granted amnesty, a person’s “conviction shall for all purposes… be deemed to not to have taken place.” The High Court and Supreme Court of Appeal in Johannesburg held that the effect of being granted amnesty was no longer permitted to be branded with titles such as criminal or murderer.

**ARTICLES:**

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