Remembering the Mxenges, who devoted their lives to justice

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I am not going to dwell on the tragedy that robbed us of Victoria and Griffths Mxenges. It is something that is documented in the annals of history. Thanks to the decision of the Constitutional Court in the Citibank 1978 (Pty) Ltd and others vs McBride Case CCT 23/10 [2011] ZACC 22, we are not denied the right to call these heroes, martyrs. They will not feel at risk of having to pay damages for defamation, simply because they were granted amnesty by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

What I wish to focus on are the ideals for which these struggle icons lived, and for which they were prepared to pay the ultimate price. They lived for justice and freedom, and devoted their lives to achieving a better life for the people they served. To them, justice and freedom were inseparable. We are indebted to them for the foundation for the freedom we are enjoying today. They were pioneers in the struggle for freedom, at a time when very few people were prepared to put up their hands and be counted because of the risks involved. It is sad that the couple did not live long enough to see the fruits of their efforts. It is testament to Griffiths in the early seven-

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