

Daily News, Tuesday, April 15 2003

Criticism of Meer is unwarranted

Sayed Iqbal Mohamed

THE criticism of Fatima Meer by South African Roots (*Daily News*, April7) is unfounded.

Her track record as a human rights activist for a democratic South Africa is well known and extensively documented, both locally and internationally. This includes her significant role in the history of the liberation struggle, her participation in the Defiance Campaign of 1952 and her role as a founding member of the Federation of South African Women.

I believe that Meer is one of few exemplary persons who grieves for the oppressed living under autocratic regimes, people suffering as a result of globalisation and world politicians motivated by a new world order.

What makes her larger than life is her humility, her outspoken concerns and active involvement, even in post apartheid South Africa.

Her being a Muslim may irritate people like South African Roots. The fact is, she is an extra-ordinary human-an outstanding woman who has challenged religious bigots, patriarchal values, politicians and extremists globally.