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EMOTIONS RUN HIGH AT MAGOOS HEARING

Emotions ran high at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Tuesday as victims of the Why Not and Magoos bar bombings spoke of how they felt about the events of the night of June 14, 1986, which changed their lives forever. Claire Burton, who lost a sister, Julie van der Linde, 28, in the blast, told the TRC amnesty hearing at the Durban Christian Centre of her strong feelings against the applicant McBride, now a Department of Foreign Affairs official, who has told of his role in the bombing. "What has McBride done to earn amnesty? What has he done to deserve it?" asked Burton, who said McBride's special operations commander, Major General Aboobaker Ismail, "hardly knew anything about everything" and accused him of having handed weapons to young boys without training. McBride responded: "The cause of the conflict was apartheid which benefited people such as Ms Burton. No amount of ranting and raving will make me change my belief that it was correct to fight this crime." McBride is applying for amnesty for planting a car bomb in front of the bars, which were next to each other, just off Durban's main beachfront. McBride and Ismail said they and the African National Congress would reserve their rights concerning what they called Burton's inflammatory attack on them. The amnesty committee heard that Jonathan Jeffers arrived at the Why Not bar 40 minutes before the 80kg bomb exploded in a car parked outside. Three people died and 73 were injured.