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Grosskopf's parents at hearing

Pretoria - Her son's amnesty hearing was "the last hurdle" the family had to overcome to close this chapter in their lives, said Hein Grosskopf's mother, Santie.

Grosskopf on Tuesday requested amnesty for the bomb which exploded at the Wits Command in July 1987.

Mrs Grosskopf and the then Minister of Police Adriaan Vlok were involved in a sensational debate shortly after the bomb. Vlok publicly accused her son of three bomb attacks - the one at Wits Command, one at the Johannesburg magistrates' court and another at the Kurgersdorp magistrates' court.

She objected to Vlok linking her son to the explosions long before he had been found guilty. It became evident years later that, in spite of Vlok's comments, the police couldn't connect Grosskopf to the bombs at the magistrates' courts.

Mrs Grosskopf and her husband Johannes, a former editor of Beeld and, until his retirement, head of the Department of Journalism at the University of Stellenbosch attended the hearing on Tuesday.

Hein's former MK commander Aboobaker Ismail and his wife, Esther Waugh, were also present. Ismail has already been granted amnesty for his part in the Wits bombing.

Professor Grosskopf indicated after the hearing that much of the detail about his son's involvement with the liberation movement was news to him and said he had "never asked Hein about his activities".

"I'm sure he would have told me if I had asked. I just never asked him."