

## Magistrates' Courts – blasts, apartheid and art

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Twenty-four-year-old Hein Grosskopf, a member of the ANC's Umkhonto we Sizwe, was responsible for planting the bombs. He also placed bombs outside the Krugersdorp Magistrates' Courts and the Witwatersrand Command in Quartz Street. Two military personnel died in the Krugersdorp blast.

Bomb blasts through the 1980s escalated until by 1988, 281 blasts were recorded across the country.

Grosskopf, who grew up in a liberal Afrikaans home, matriculated from Hoerskool Linden in Joburg, studied at Wits University and was junior mayor of Joburg. He travelled to Botswana after the blast, and returned several months later to detonate a bomb outside the Witwatersrand Command (the Drill Hall). In 1988 a reward of R50 000 was offered by the police for information leading to his arrest. *The Sunday Times* described him as "SA's most wanted man".

Grosskopf was tried and convicted while in exile. He appeared in 1988 at the Five Freedoms Forum meeting – a group of business and political meetings with the ANC in exile – in Lusaka. In 2000 he applied to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee for amnesty, which was granted, and he returned to the United Kingdom where he was living at the time.