

# Nazmi Durrani Lives On 'Literary'

By Simon Muli

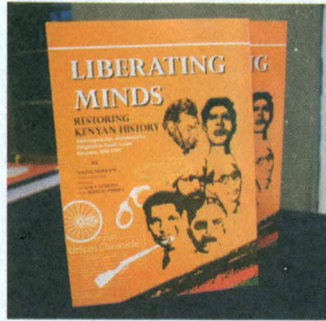
The late Nazmi Durrani is known by many as a great patriot who was actively involved in the Kenyan struggle in the 1980's. Unfortunately, his life was cut short by a grizzly accident as he cycled along a thoroughfare in the country's capital, Nairobi. But the July 1990 tragedy didn't mark the end of his literary life. In fact, it never will, if the launch of his new book on May 18 is anything to go by. People who personally know him or read his work, gathered at the Pattni Brotherhood for the launch of the book, titled *Liberating Minds: Restoring Kenyan History: Anti-Imperialist Resistance By Progressive Kenyan South Asians 1884 – 1965*. It is a product of six of his stories together with writings concerning the struggle for liberation in Kenya in the 1980s. The original stories were written in Gujarati and were published in a magazine called, *Alak Malak*.

"A lot of his writings got preserved by his family. Others got donated to various institutions. But now years later, his family has put together this book," said Zahid Rajan of *Awaaz*, who partnered with *Mau Mau Research Centre* and *Azimio* to launch the book.

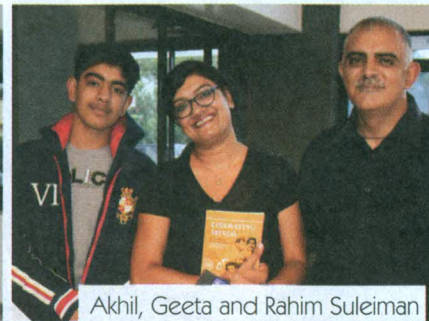
Nazmi was an expert in his mother tongue but that was not the only reason he wrote these articles in a minority language and script. He fervently believed in the importance of preserving and promoting our languages; a goal he shared with *Ngugi wa Thiongo*. He also wanted the South Asian community to read about its own history. The other reason was security.

"At that time they had to be very careful how they did everything but he managed to be the activists that now everyone has recognized him for. I guess if he was here it would have been a whole different world for us and for our family," said one of his nephews who says he had the opportunity of knowing him for a short period because he was still a youngster when Nazmi Durrani Died.

Wahu Kaara, a long time civil society and human rights activist, launched the book while Zarina Patel, a friend and associate of Nazmi, also spoke about her memories and the writings of Nazmi Durrani.



Ruth Thomas and Chandu Sheth



Akhil, Geeta and Rahim Suleiman



Bhavik Ghaghda, Wahu Kaara and Tejal Ghaghda



Hindpal Jabbal, Yash Ghai and Mwongela Kamencu



Hirji Shah and Zahid Rajan



Mohez Karmali and Navin Shah



Pheroze Nowrojee



Mr Kurji and Zarina Patel