

injuries on the body. This could not be contested. Because Ngudie had been buried for over a month, the family's pathologist, Dr Hillel Shapiro, was unable to perform an independent autopsy and had to rely on the report of the state pathologist.

Berrangé had a reputation as a fearsome cross-examiner. Major Fred van Niekerk of the security police was to experience this when questioned on his interrogation methods.

"If a detainee, this man or any other, on being interrogated after he had been detained, says, 'I am not under any circumstances prepared to give you any information whatsoever, do you leave him alone or do you take further steps?'"

"Well, he's got to be asked again."

"And again?"

"Yes."

"And again?"

"Yes."

"And again?"

"Yes."

"And again?"

"Yes."

"I see. The idea being to wear him down, I suppose?"

"I make no comment."

Berrangé returned to this point of infinite interrogation, when he asked the major, "That would be a dreadful thing to happen to a man, wouldn't it, if in fact you were wrong?"

"Yes."

"It would be, and all that man would be able to see, as far as his future is concerned, would be an endless vista of imprisonment coupled with repeated questioning."

"Yes."

Berrangé called Isaac Tlale to testify that he had seen Ngudie at the police station. Ngudie, he said, had seemed in great pain. Questioned on his own treatment, Tlale told a harrowing tale of torture as the police tried to force him to admit to recruiting for Umkhonto weSizwe. After assaulting him, during which he still denied the allegations, the police told him to undress.

"Did you do so?" asked Berrangé.

"I did so," responded Tlale.

"And then where were you told to go?"

"I was handcuffed. There were two chairs joined together. I was asked to sit on those two chairs. I was sitting this way..." Tlale indicated how he had sat, with his knees up, his arms wrapped around them. "My hands were handcuffed," he continued, "and in between my knees they inserted a broom handle."

"Below your knees and above your arms?"

"Above my arms and below my knees."

"So that you were pinioned then?"

"Yes."

"What happened to your head?"

"My head was covered with a bag."

"And what happened to your hands?"

"I could feel that something was tied to my two small fingers."

"And during this time you were being addressed. Were they talking to you, asking you anything?"

"They were asking me continuously whether I was still denying."

"Did you continue to deny?"

"I continued denying."

"What was the next thing you felt?"

"I then felt my body was burning. I felt as if something was shocking me."

"Have you ever had an electric shock?"

"Yes, I had it when I was repairing a car."

"The same sort of thing?"

"Yes."

"Can you remember how many times these shocks were put through you?"

"They did it twice."

"And what happened ultimately?"

"Thereafter I lost my consciousness. The next thing I remember was standing next to a table signing a document."

"Did anyone hold your hand?"

"One constable was holding my hand."

"Was this a document that had any writing on it? Or was it blank, or what was it?"