

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA
GAUTENG DIVISION, PRETORIA

Case number: I01/2017

In the matter of:

REOPENED INQUEST: LATE AHMED TIMOL

AFFIDAVIT OF MONICA DUBE

I, the undersigned

MONICA DUBE

do hereby make oath and state that:

- 1 I am an adult female. I am a social worker in private practice. I am a co-owner of Dube & Potter Inc.
- 2 Unless the context indicates otherwise, the facts contained in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are, to the best of my belief, both true and correct.

PURPOSE OF THIS AFFIDAVIT

- 3 The purpose of this affidavit is to set out important events and facts regarding my detention and torture, which that I believe will be of assistance to the inquest into Ahmed Timol's ("**Mr Timol**") death.

M.D.

- 4 This affidavit sets out my experiences in Security Branch detention. I wish for these facts to be presented to a new inquest court for purposes of establishing the truth as to what happened to the late Ahmed Timol.

BACKGROUND

- 5 I was born in Sophiatown on 25 April 1950. As a child I witnessed the forced removals of the people from Sophiatown to Meadowlands. I was raised in a Catholic home where I was taught we are all equal, created in the image of God.
- 6 I attended the University of the North from 1972. I studied for and obtained a BA Social Work degree. I was influenced by the Black Consciousness Movement, but mainly by the tenants of my religion.
- 7 In 1982 I joined the Centre for Social Development run by Professor Cecile Muller at the University of the Witwatersrand.
- 8 I was employed as a social worker, but mainly doing student supervision. I completed a higher diploma in Advanced Social Work Practice. In studying for this course I became aware of the difference between the quality of education being offered in the black universities compared to the mainstream universities.
- 9 At the Centre for Social Development I met my two (2) friends, Terry Sacco and Maxine Hart.

M.D.

- 14 They told me to get dressed and bring my toothbrush, face cloth and a change of clothing. The black man said I should take warm clothing as it was cold where I was going.
- 15 The police searched my house, they even went into the ceiling. They searched through my books. They did not handcuff me. They left the house with me at approximately 05h00 and took me to the Protea Police Station. There they took samples of my handwriting and my fingerprints. From there they took me to my mother's house in Meadowlands, Soweto.
- 16 When we arrived at my mother's house they left me in the car with two (2) police guarding me. The other two went into my mother's house and searched it. My father was also present with my two younger brothers. My mother was in her fifties at that stage.
- 17 When my mother requested a search warrant she was informed that if she did not cooperate my family would never see me again. After searching the house they came out with my mother and she saw me. The four men then drove me to John Vorster Square Police Station ("**John Vorster Square**").
- 18 We entered through the basement and took a lift. I do not know which floor we went to because they would take the lift up then down, and then up and down again. I think this was done to thoroughly confuse me as to which floor I might be on.

T.W.
M.D.

ARREST AND DETENTION

- 10 On or about June or July 1984, Terry, Maxine and I travelled to Botswana for a holiday weekend. Maxine's boyfriend was politically involved and had skipped South Africa. I thought one of the purposes of the weekend was for Maxine to find him. We met a group of political exiles but did not find her boyfriend. In fact I think she had intended to meet certain people in Botswana for political purposes. For me the weekend was simply a holiday and I was in no way involved in her politics.
- 11 The day before our return to South Africa a woman attempted to recruit me into the African National Congress. I was too scared to commit to that.
- 12 We returned to South Africa on the Sunday and I went back to work on the Monday. It was business as usual until four (4) members of the Security Branch ("SB") of the South African Police arrived at my home at Pimville, Soweto in the early hours of 11 September 1984. At that point I was living with my two (2) sons and a helper. My sister, who was then in her twenties, was staying with us at the time.
- 13 The SB members announced that I was to be arrested under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. As already stated there were four police officers, three (3) white men and one (1) black man. They were not in uniform and I cannot recall their names.

T.M.
M.B.

- 19 When we finally got to the desired floor they took me to a cell. They left me there. In the late afternoon another white man – whom I had not met before – came and said he was in charge of the investigation. I did not see any black officers after that. He took my belt, ring and spectacles. I did not have a watch. He left me like that. Without my spectacles I could not see properly.
- 20 The next morning two female uniformed officers brought me breakfast. The food spilt out onto the floor because I could not see. They then took me for a shower. The water was warm.
- 21 I was then fetched by the three white officers who arrested me plus a police woman. They took me to see the district surgeon at a building opposite the Department of Home Affairs. The District Surgeon asked me if my jaw was still intact and if my ribs were broken. He said if he saw me again my bones would be broken. He did suggest that officers return my spectacles to me, which they did. I was there for about an hour. They then took me back to John Vorster Square.
- 22 They took me to an interrogation room. I assumed it was the highest floor the police station. The room had a desk and chairs in it. I was placed on a chair across the table from one of the interrogators, the other interrogator would continuously sit down then stand up and walk around behind me, circling me.
- 23 They started by telling me my life's history: my place of birth, where I had grown up, my academic history and my jobs. They mentioned that the doctor opposite my house was very busy at night. I had the feeling they had been

T. M. D.

watching me since before my trip to Botswana. That day passed. They took me to my cell.

- 24 Every day they would fetch me from my cell at about 07h00 for interrogation and return me to my cell at approximately 16h00. Every night as I fell asleep I would be awoken by a uniformed police woman who would then talk to me to make sure that I was fully awake, then she would leave. As soon as I fell asleep she would come back again, repeating this at least four times during the course of the night thus depriving me of any good sleep.
- 25 On the third day of my detention – on a Thursday – my interrogators got tough with me. They demanded that I must talk. They wanted me to tell them what had happened in Botswana, they said *"tell us today"*. I did not want to implicate anybody so I withheld information. At this stage I was aware that Maxine and Terry had been arrested. They told me Terry and Maxine had *"spilled the beans"* but I did not believe them. I told them that I only went to Botswana on a holiday.
- 26 During the course of Thursday I was introduced to an as member referred to as MS. They called him, shouting *"MS, MS"*, he was a very big strong man. He gave me a terrible look. He had what I could describe as a no-nonsense face. He said *"what is wrong with you, can't you co-operate with the police?"* I said there is nothing to cooperate about. He lifted me up, almost totally off of my feet, with only one hand under my armpit and said *"do you think Timol jumped or was he pushed?"* I was dead frightened. I said I think he jumped. He said

M.D. Fin

"no, we pushed him. And that is what is going to happen with you. I'm going to push you".

- 27 Then he put me down, his sneering look and the way he grabbed me was very dehumanising. He left the room saying *"now, I will sort out the other hardegatte"*. I assumed he was referring to Maxine and Terry.
- 28 I then told my interrogators what had transpired in Botswana. They took notes as I spoke. They asked for each and every detail. I also told them how on the last day a box had been given to Maxine to bring back with her to South Africa.
- 29 That night they moved me from my cell to another cell, and the policewoman who used to wake me told me that Maxine was in a cell on the same floor. I already knew Maxine was there too as I had seen her washed dress drying in the courtyard.
- 30 On the Friday one of the interrogators said his daughter was sick and he needed to go home early. Interrogation was halted at lunchtime. They still wanted more information about my Botswana trip. Terry and Maxine had during that trip, visited a school called Maru-a-Pula. I told them I went too although I had not. I cannot explain why I said this. Terry and Maxine had probably told them I had been left behind and this confused them. That night again I was not allowed to sleep.
- 31 On the Saturday there was no interrogation but again I was not allowed to sleep.

M. D. G.

- 32 On the Sunday a magistrate came to the police station, carrying a sjambok. He asked me if I was happy, and if I was fine. I said I wished I could go home. That night I became very sick, nauseous and vomiting but was given no medication. The same policewoman came to my cell to ask me what was wrong. The quick manner in which she came to my cell without me having asked for help made me think they were monitoring me very closely. I believe that they were watching me at all times.
- 33 On the Monday I was interrogated again. I was taken to an office with a poster "*Diamonds are forever*". I was interrogated by a new set of three plain clothed officers. They forced me to sign a handwritten document, I was not permitted to read it. I assume it was the document that they wrote out throughout the duration of my interrogation.
- 34 On the Tuesday, I was left alone in my cell for the entire day. Later my interrogators came and told me I had visitors. I was taken to an office with a red carpet. There I found my mother and my children waiting for me. My eldest son was five years old and while my youngest son was three years old at the time. They looked extremely frightened when they saw me. They did not understand why I was there. I was accompanied by the three officers along with a black policeman. I believe he was there to interpret and report back on my discussion with my family, which was conducted in Setswana.
- 35 The following day, on the Wednesday, Professor Muller came to the police station although I was not allowed to see her. She brought me dried fruits and I



think cigarettes for Maxine. They gave me the dried fruits and I was permitted to eat them.

- 36 On the Thursday afternoon I was driven home.
- 37 They used my signed statement in the trial of Maxine Hart. I read about this in the Citizen Newspaper. I was never called to give evidence at Maxine's trial which happened by December of that year. She received a five year suspended sentence. The last time I saw Maxine was at David Webster's memorial service sometime in the mid-1980s. I understand Maxine was angry with me for a while. She now lives in Canada.
- 38 I see Terry often and we are close friends. I understand that with regards to Terry's interrogation the SB used a different tactic. In my case they threatened my life, in Terry's they would insult her but she fought back. For example she said to them if you dare do to me what you did to Timol, you will fall with me.
- 39 MS would hold and shake me during my interrogations. Other than that I was not assaulted. The security police seemed aware that I had polio as a child and therefore I was extremely weak, but they did succeed in terrifying me.



MONICA DUBE

The Deponent has acknowledged that he knows and understands the contents of this affidavit, which was signed and affirmed before me at Linden ARS on this

the 09 day of 08 2017, the regulations contained in Government Notice No R1258 of 21 July 1972, as amended, and Government Notice No R1648 of 19 August 1977, as amended, having been complied with.



7020557-4 Tim
Sgt M MABASU

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

FULL NAMES: ^{MABASU}THANDEKILE MURIEL

DESIGNATION: SGT

ADDRESS: 30 Boundary rd
Robinsondale