

IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUEST OF THE LATE DR N H AGGETT

A F F I D A V I T

I, the undersigned,

PRAMANATHAN NAIDOO,

hereby make oath and say:

1. I am at present a prisoner in the Johannesburg Fort serving a 12 month sentence for harbouring an escaped prisoner. The sentence was for three years of which two years was suspended for five years. My prison number is 2837/82.
2. I was detained on 27 November 1981 by Cpt Sonns. I was taken to John Vorster Square for questioning. After having my thumbprints and photograph taken, I was taken to the district surgeon. Then I was taken to the tenth floor to Maj Cronwright.
3. Maj Cronwright told me that the game was up and that he knew all about my activities. He then introduced me to a Maj Arbee, or a name which sounded like that. Maj Cronwright then left the office.

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4. Maj Arbee asked me when I joined the ANC. When I replied that I was not a member of the ANC, he grabbed me and smacked me a couple of times across my face. He then grabbed me by my hair and banged my head on the desk. He then made me squat in a corner with my face to the wall.
5. He then took me into a nearby office where a couple of people were sitting having tea. I presumed they were security police. I was made to squat behind the door facing the wall. While I was squatting there, someone came up behind me and punched my head with his fist. He then wiped his hand on my head and walked out. I did not see who it was. Shortly after this, a Black policeman came into the office and he was then instructed to handcuff me and to take me down to the cells. This was done.
6. During this time, I was not interrogated but I thought they were trying to intimidate me.
7. On Monday morning, 30 November 1981, I was fetched from the cells by a Black security policeman. He took me to the tenth floor to an office on the north side of the building. After waiting there for some time, I was fetched by a man whom I later discovered was W/O Smith. He took me to his office. He told me that he knew all about my activities, that if I co-operated and made a statement, all would be well. If I did not co-operate, they had ways and means of getting the information out of me and they would do so. These

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were not the exact words but this was what he meant.

8. Another security policeman came into the office. I do not know his name. He was of average height, medium build and had curly ginger hair.
9. W/O Smith asked me when I joined the ANC and the SACP. When I said that I was not a member of either organisation, the ginger haired man suggested I be handcuffed. W/O Smith then handcuffed my right wrist to my right ankle and I was made to remain standing. Then I was asked the same questions again and gave the same reply. W/O Smith then went to a cupboard in the office and took out a canvas bag. He placed this over my head. From time to time they asked me the same question again and when I gave the same reply, I was punched and kicked. At one stage during the morning, someone else came into the office and removed the bag and he said, "Hy's nog vars". He then kicked me on my backside and replaced the bag. I subsequently discovered that this man was Prince. He had a little 'bokbaard'.
10. At about lunchtime, the bag and the handcuffs were removed and I was given some soup and bread for lunch.
11. After lunch, the cuffs were put back, wrist to ankle, and the questioning started again very intermittently. After about two hours, the cuffs were removed and W/O Smith made me do some exercises. He made me do squats and press-ups on

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the floor. Then a Black policeman came in, I was handcuffed and taken back to the cells. W/O Smith told me that they were coming back that evening to fetch me. In the event they did not come until the next morning.

12. A Black policeman came to the cell on Tuesday morning, 1 December 1981, handcuffed me and took me to the tenth floor, straight to W/O Smith's office. W/O Smith came in after a while and ordered me to strip. I was then handcuffed right wrist to right ankle. The ginger haired man came in again and I was asked the same questions as the day before. Again, when I gave the same answer, I would be kicked, punched or pushed. This went on until about lunchtime. I was given the same lunch.
13. After lunch, during the afternoon, I was handcuffed again, wrist to ankle. During this period, Prince came in again. Without any sort of provocation, he pushed me onto the floor and, while I was on the floor, he put his foot on the handcuffs so that they dug into my wrist and ankle. He then struck me under my feet with a piece of wood which had a key tied to it. The piece of wood was approximately a foot long and approximately two inches wide. Prince did not ask me any questions. There were a number of other policemen present during this.
14. Then I was made to get up. After a while the cuffs were removed and I was made to kneel and to hold a chair above my head. W/O Smith was in

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charge. They kept on asking me when I joined the ANC and the SACP.

15. While I was holding the chair, a tall man with a long nose came in. I understood that he was a Cpt Venter or Verster. My arms were tiring and the chair was beginning to sag. He grabbed the chair and banged it on my head a couple of times. He did not ask me any questions. I was naked all this time.
16. After a while, they put the chair down and made me kneel with my arms above my head. The captain then came and hit me two or three times very hard on my head with his fist.
17. During the late afternoon, W/O Smith made me do squats, press-ups and running on the spot. When I started to perspire, W/O Smith told me that they wanted to get my body warmed up so that if I died, the marks would not show up in the post mortem. The exercises went on for approximately 15 to 20 minutes in the presence of W/O Smith and the ginger haired policeman. If I flagged, and I was made to do the exercises at a fast pace, they would jab me, prod me and force me to keep going.
18. W/O Smith then instructed me to get dressed and he said that, if I died, they wanted me to be found with my clothing on. I was then taken back to the cell.
19. On Wednesday morning, 2 December 1981, I was fetched and taken back to the tenth floor to W/O

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Smith's office. I was kept in this office continuously until Friday afternoon on 4 December 1981. Then I was taken to the Vereeniging police station. The events described in the following paragraphs 20 to 31 all took place in W/O Smith's office on the tenth floor at John Vorster Square.

20. When I was brought to W/O Smith's office, he made me strip and I was then kept naked all the time until I was taken to Vereeniging.
21. The interrogation became more intense. There were three teams. The first one consisted of W/O Smith and W/O Booysen who I subsequently discovered was from Pietersburg. He seemed to have arrived in Johannesburg that same day. The next team was a Lt Botha and the ginger haired policeman. The third team was W/O Van der Merwe, someone called 'Schalkie' and a lieutenant from Thabazimbe whose name was, I think, Lt Venter. They worked in eight hour shifts.
22. From Wednesday morning until Friday afternoon, I was kept naked and was not allowed any sleep. They gave me tablets which they dissolved in water. W/O Smith told me that these were alert tablets. He also gave me a glass of a pinkish liquid which he said was Sanatogen. The tablets were given three or four times over the period, the Sanatogen only once.
23. During this period, that is, from Wednesday morning until Friday afternoon, I was made to march on the spot, to kneel and to hold the chair

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above my head and to do exercises such as squats, push-ups and marching on the spot. They had an ANC flag which they would make me wave and hold up while I was marching on the spot.

24. All the people mentioned in paragraph 21 made me do these things but the chief ones were W/Os Smith and Booysen and the ginger haired policeman.
25. On one of the nights during this period, I think it was Wednesday, W/O Booysens came into the office. This was before the shift system had really settled down. He joined W/O Van der Merwe, Schalkie and Lt Venter. After a while, Schalkie and W/O Van der Merwe left the room and I was subjected to about an hour of very intensive pressure. I was questioned continually and at the same time made to do exercises, to kneel holding a chair and marching on the spot. At one stage, they made me sit down on a chair and while holding my arms put a plastic bag over my head. I resisted and managed to rip it off. This particular session ended when Booysen, who I thought had been drinking, grabbed my leg and dragged me out of the office and down the passage. He then left and Venter instructed me to get up and return to the office.
26. From time to time during my interrogation, other policemen who seemed to have nothing to do with me would come in, punch me, smack me and otherwise abuse me. I remember particularly that the captain to whom I have referred in paragraph 15

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came in a number of times and punched me on my head.

27. Lt Venter told me that they referred to that floor as "Timol Heights" and that after they had finished with me, they would change it to "Prema Heights". I am usually known as Prema which is a shortened form of my name. The ginger haired man asked me if I had seen the sign downstairs saying "Beware of low flying Indians". At one stage, W/O Booyesen said they would get a hacksaw, cut the bars and throw me out the window.
28. At one stage during this interrogation, the man called 'Schalkie' took a thin strip of paper and tied it with a bow around my penis. He tied a similar bow around my neck. These two bows remained on until I was taken to Vereeniging. Everyone laughed, even Maj Cronwright who came in at one stage. Various policemen would come into the office and laugh at me and mock me. They threatened to show me a Playboy magazine and when I got an erection to hit my penis. Also, the man called Schalkie and the ginger haired policeman particularly, would make me kneel and then shoot my penis with an elastic band.
29. On Friday afternoon, there were a lot of policemen present. One of them was Sgt Carr. He sat down next to me while I was kneeling. He asked the others if I was co-operating, and when they said no, he pinched my ear.
30. At no stage during this period was I permitted to

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lie down or to sleep. I started to give a statement on the Wednesday afternoon and, while I was doing this, talking into a tape recorder, I was allowed to sit on the floor. Later that evening, after the intense period referred to in paragraph 25, I was talking to W/O Van der Merwe. He allowed me to put my pants on and to sit on a chair. On one other occasion, Lt Botha allowed me to sit on the floor. On no other occasion was I even allowed to sit.

31. During this period, I knelt such a lot that the skin on my right knee broke on Friday morning.
32. I did not during this period make any complaints about my treatment or ask to see a district surgeon or doctor. I was terrified to do so and there was no one, other than the security policemen in whose custody I was, to whom I could complain or ask.
33. On Friday afternoon, I was taken to the police cells at the Vereeniging police station by Lt Botha and the ginger haired policeman. They did not tell me where they were taking me. They told me that I was now going to shit and after the time I had spent on the tenth floor, I was convinced they were taking me somewhere to kill me. I was transported in leg irons.
34. At Vereeniging, I was placed in a cell. I laid down on the mat and fell asleep immediately. Later, I do not know how much later but it was dark, I was fetched and taken to the charge office

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where W/O Smith took charge of me and took me to an office in the police station. W/O Booysen was there.

35. They immediately made me strip. They made me march with my right arm up in a clenched fist salute and my left arm outstretched in what they called a "calling the people" gesture. They questioned me intensely. I then fell asleep on my feet and, when I next became aware of what I was doing, I found myself talking but unable to stop myself. I was made to repeat what I had said over and over again into a tape recorder. They also tried to force me to agree to make a confession to a magistrate. They pulled my hair and punched me.
36. At about 6.00 a.m. on Saturday morning, Lt Botha and the ginger haired man came on duty. He made me go through everything I had told the security police since Wednesday and clarified various aspects. He also allowed me to put on my clothes. But I was made to stand all the time. Later, he took me to his car and gave me some things which my wife had left for me and then allowed me to wash at the cells. He also allowed me to sleep in the cells.
37. I did not actually sleep because, having had a wash, I suddenly felt wide awake. Some time later, while it was still daytime, I was fetched again and taken to the same office. W/Os Smith and Booysen were there.
38. They gave me pen and paper and told me to start

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writing my statement. While I was not allowed to sleep while writing my statement, I was not otherwise maltreated. I was given coffee and cold drink from time to time. This went on until Monday morning when my statement was taken, I was told, to John Vorster Square. Later, they told me they were not happy with my statement and I had to start rewriting it, being more specific and changing certain things.

39. By this time, I had completely lost track of time. I can remember that I was allowed to lie down on the floor for an hour or so on newspaper. On another occasion, I was allowed to lie down on a couple of chairs which had been brought together.
40. On Tuesday, or Wednesday, Lt Botha asked me if I would make a confession to a police officer, by which he meant a uniformed policeman and not a member of the security police. I said I would and someone was sent for. I then changed my mind and Lt Botha was very angry and punched me on my chest. He then said to me that he was going to kill me. He then made me ~~put on my shoes and~~ stand up against a wall with my heels hooked on a brick and my knees bent slightly. Whenever I flagged, the ginger haired man came and jabbed me to get me standing to their satisfaction. This lasted for a few hours. R1
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41. When W/Os Smith and Booysen came on shift, Lt Botha told them that I had refused to make a statement. They made me do exercises, such as standing against a wall with my knees bent,
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sit-ups, squats, press-ups and running on the spot, and this went on for about two hours.

42. On about Wednesday, I was taken back to the cell and allowed to sleep. Late that night, I was fetched and taken to the office where Lt Botha was. He asked me if I would make a confession to a security police officer.* I said yes. He then took me in his car to a roadhouse where he bought me coffee and a hamburger. He then drove me to John Vorster Square which we reached at about midnight. RI

43. We were met in the garage by a Cpt Van Rensburg. He asked me why I was not prepared to make a confession to a magistrate or police officer and, when I gave him no answer, he said I was playing with my life. I was then taken back to Vereeniging.

44. On the next morning, I made a statement to a Cpt Steyn of the security police at Vereeniging.

45. A couple of days later, on Saturday, Sgt Carr came to my cell with another policeman and Lt Venter. I was made to put on leg irons and they then took me in their car. After buying some meat, they drove me to the Vaal Dam looking for somewhere to braai the meat. When they could not find anywhere suitable, we returned to the Meyerton police station where the meat was braaied and given to me.

46. On the way to the Vaal Dam, Sgt Carr said to me RI

* He told me that there were some very nasty people in the security police and that if I did not sign the confession, the time I had been through would be nothing compared to what I would go through, I believed him. RI

that they were taking me to the Vaal Dam where they were going to drown me.

47. Later, during about January, I complained to Lt Steyn that I had a sore ear. He asked me if I had been assaulted. I told him that W/O Booysen had hit me across the ear during the time I had been at John Vorster Square.
48. The next day, W/O Booysen was very angry and demanded to know why I had made false allegations about him when he had been so good to me. He forced me to apologise to him in front of Lt Steyn.
49. I was visited a couple of times by the inspector of detainees at Vereeniging. On one visit, he asked me if I had been assaulted by the security police. I told him I would rather not answer as I was frightened. *I then told him that the first two weeks of my detention had been a rough time and that I had not been well treated by the security police during that time.* ~~He wrote down that I had said that I had not been well treated by the security police for the first two weeks of my detention.~~
50. I made no other complaints because I was frightened to do so. All this time, I was in the custody of the security police.
51. Just before I was charged in March 1982, I was taken to the district surgeon in Vereeniging by the security police in Vereeniging. My escort, whose name I do not know, asked the district surgeon to ask me if I had been assaulted. The district surgeon put this question to me and I said no, again because I was frightened. This all

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took place in the presence of my escort, who was a security police member from Vereeniging. ^{At the request of my escort,} The district surgeon then wrote a note that he had asked me the question and setting out what my reply had been. He then signed the note and gave it to my escort.

1. I know and understand the contents of this declaration.
2. I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath.
3. I consider the prescribed oath to be binding on my conscience.

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I certify that the deponent has acknowledged that he knows and understands the contents of this affidavit which was signed and sworn to before me at Johannesburg on the 18 day of June 1982.

Abraham van der Westhuizen 84101F
 COMMISSIONER OF OATHS
 JACOBUS NICHOLAS
 VAN DER WESTHUIZEN.
 FULL NAME _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS 12

PATTERSON STREET, NORWOOD.

DESIGNATION SERJANT.