
AFFIDAVIT OF PARMANANTHAN NAIDOO

I, the undersigned

PARMANANTHAN NAIDOO

do hereby make oath and state that:

1. I am an adult male born on 30 May 1945 in Doornfontein. I am currently retired and I live in Johannesburg.
2. Unless the context indicates otherwise, the facts contained in this affidavit are within my own 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 I believe might be of assistance to the inquest into Neil Aggett's death.

BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

4. I was first arrested when I was fifteen, while distributing leaflets of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), on the charge of trespassing on railway property. I was found guilty, cautioned and discharged as I was under the age of sixteen.

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5. From the late 1960s, when most political activity was suppressed by massive repression I was active in the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress. I was a founder of the Human Rights Committee with Sheila Weinberg, a former political prisoner whose family had suffered persecution, and Mohamed Timol, whose brother, Ahmed, had been tortured and murdered by the police in John Vorster Square. The Committee was established to focus attention on political prisoners and provide assistance to their families.
6. I was the Assistant Secretary of the Transvaal Anti-SAIC Council (TASC) which, in 1981 led a very successful boycott against the South African Indian Council (SAIC) elections, a puppet body set up by the Apartheid regime. It was after the TASC campaign that I was arrested on 27 November 1981 as described below. I then suffered a period of continuous incarceration first, as a detainee, second, as an awaiting trial prisoner and third, as a sentenced prisoner totalling some 17 continuous months. I was released from prison in April 1983.
7. As a consequence of the repression associated with the Rivonia trial and people going into exile the Transvaal Indian Congress ("TIC") had become dormant. It was revived on 1 May 1983 at a meeting held in Lenasia and at that meeting I was elected onto the executive of the TIC.
8. When I was arrested on 27 November 1981 the Security Police searched my house from top to bottom and there were various leaflets relating to my political involvement which they seized.
9. I was detained again in the states of emergency during the 1980s. I remained active in the TIC and helped to form the United Democratic Front (UDF).

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10. Following the democratic elections in 1994 I served as a councillor in the Johannesburg City Council and as the mayor of the South-Western Substructure of Greater Johannesburg (1994-1995) and as the chairperson of the executive committee of the Southern Metropolitan Local Council (1995-2000); and mayoral committee member for health (2000-2006) and as the mayoral committee member for environmental management (2006-2009) and I am a former Chief Whip of Council. I serve on the board of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation.

1981 DETENTION AND TORTURE

11. On 27 November 1981 I was arrested under the Internal Security Act at my home in Lenasia, Johannesburg and taken to John Vorster Square to Major Arthur B Cronwright's office by Captain Sonns. I had been handcuffed at my home, sat in the car to JVS hand-cuffed and remained handcuffed as I stood before Cronwright. He pulled my hair and smacked my head against the table. Captain Sonns was present in Cronwright's office during this assault. I was told by the Security Branch officers that when they were done with me they will call John Vorster Square ("JVS") Prema Naidoo Heights just as they had already started calling JVS, Timol Heights, the innuendo being that they intended to kill me by throwing me off the 10th floor of JVS just as they had done with the late Ahmed Timol. The further innuendo being a racial slur that Timol and I shared a common heritage with the South African Indian diaspora.
12. I was finger- printed, photographed and then taken to a district surgeon. After seeing the district surgeon they took me to a cell at JVS and left me there for the weekend. The cell was quite a spacious area, but had nothing in it. I was detained in this cell for a weekend. On Monday morning I was taken to the tenth floor at

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JVS where I was met by Warrant Officer Smith ("**Smith**"). It was at this point when the security branch officers started interrogating me.

INTERROGATION

13. The interrogation strategy adopted by the officers was to determine whether I was part of the Internal Reconstruction & Development Unit in the ANC ("**IRD**"). The IRD's purpose was to expand the ANC's underground network and Mac Maharaj was part of it. At the time, I was not involved with the IRD.
14. The aim of the interrogation was to wear me down. At some point the Security Branch officers instructed me to strip. Once naked, the officers brought a white woman into the room who laughed at me. The officers would then hit my penis with elastic bands.
15. The officers then resorted to more violent means. They took my wrist and handcuffed it to my ankles. The officers then started beating me, each taking a turn and asking me similar questions regarding the IRD. I had no knowledge and therefore could not answer. The beating continued.
16. The assaults and interrogation left me feeling completely dehumanized. In addition to the beatings and rough interrogation, I was also tortured by sleep deprivation and solitary confinement. Fortunately, electric shocks were not administered on me.
17. They made me write and rewrite my statements. When they were unhappy with the content they would beat me up and tell me to write it again.
18. A security branch policeman - I think it was Steven Whitehead - once hit me on the side of my head so hard that my ear started buzzing and still buzzes to this day.


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19. The whole idea behind the torture and assaults was too dehumanize me. When I needed to go to the toilet they would drag me there, I was not allowed to just walk to the toilet.
20. After three days of interrogation the officers took me to Vereeniging police station. On arrival at Vereeniging Police Station I saw Firoz Cachalia standing against the wall. He looked distressed. At Vereeniging my interrogation continued. They interrogated me for 8 hours at a time. They would rotate in teams of three officers. I was again instructed to strip and I stripped. I had no choice.
21. Around the fifth or sixth day of interrogation it finally became apparent to the officers that all the questions that they had asked me did not relate to me as I was not involved in the IRD. I only knew the people that were involved, like Mac Maharaj and Marius Schoon.
22. The officers then gave me a pink liquid that they said was Sanatogen. I was told that Sanatogen would calm your nerves. Sanatogen was advertised as a tonic in those days. But, I am not sure whether it was actually Sanatogen. I drank it. I then began speaking about things I should not have spoken about. I think I was not given Sanatogen but the so- called truth serum.
23. I was involved in assisting Steven Lee escape from Pretoria Central prison in 1979. A friend of mine, Shirish Nanabhai, had knocked on my door one day. Suresh told me he had the fugitive, Steven Lee, in his car. The whole city was teeming with police searching for Steven. The police knew where I lived so Steven could not stay with me. So, Shirish and I took Steven to another comrade's house. I had then communicated with my contacts in Swaziland in the ANC and they got back to me and told me where to drop Steven off. I delivered him to this location and the ANC took him across the border.

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24. During the sixth day of my interrogation, tired and sleepless, I finally started talking. I told them about Steven's escape. I gave them names of the people that were involved in the escape. I had been dehumanised and was in a terrible state. I even contemplated suicide.
25. I wrote out a statement about Lee's escape. They then returned me to my cell. My interrogation came to an end about mid- December 1981.
26. Thereafter, there was one bizarre incident in Vereeniging in particular. A few days before Christmas 1981, Smith came to collect me and placed handcuffs and leg-irons on me. I was thrown in the back of a car and driven to the Vaal area. They drove me around the Vaal area for a while. During the drive, Smith and the other officers told me that they were going to drown me in the Vaal dam. There were holiday makers in the area. They then drove me to the Meyerton police station where they stopped. Once we arrived there they handcuffed me to a water- pipe outside the police offices. They did not assault me, but continued to threaten to drown me. They made their point. The threat of being killed was enough to terrify me.
27. I was left alone in solitary confinement in Vereeniging until February in 1982. In February 1982 I was again driven to John Vorster Square in hand- cuffs and leg irons. This time the drive was in total silence. At JVS I was taken to an office on the 10th Floor where many SB officers were standing around. Suddenly my mother and wife were brought into see me. They were threatened and insulted and told to say nothing to me. After a few minutes they were made to leave and I was driven back to Vereeniging again in silence. On the way back I saw a placard saying a detainee had been found hanged in his cell. In my cell at Vereeniging I asked an African policemen about the meaning of the placard. He brought me the Citizen

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newspaper the headlines of which concerned the death of Neil Aggett. This is how I found out about his death.

28. I was left in solitary confinement in Vereeniging until the end of March 1982. They had my statement about the Lee escape typed out. About two weeks after seeing my wife at JVS they asked me whether I would make this statement before a magistrate. I said no, and the officers started beating me again.
29. I was then driven to Johannesburg late at night in leg irons and hand cuffs, to the basement at JVS and told to sign the statement before a Magistrate. I said no, and, again, I was beaten by the officers who eventually ceased and took me back to my cell in Vereeniging. They were furious that I had refused to make the statement and were swearing at me and knocking me around in the car all the way back to Vereeniging.
30. In Vereeniging they continued to threaten me. At this point I agreed to sign the statement in front of the SB only, not a Magistrate. I figured I would say I had made it under duress at any trial. I was not prepared to make a statement before a magistrate. A few days later a Warrant Officer Smith brought to me a typed statement which I read through and signed.
31. At about this time I complained to a Captain (I think it was a Captain Steyn, who was in uniform) about the buzzing in my ear when he came to my cell to ask me how I was doing. He arranged for me to see a district surgeon. The next day police in uniform took me to see the district surgeon in Plein Street, Johannesburg. I saw Dr Jacobson who examined me, spoke to me, but did not give me any treatment. I was taken back to Vereeniging. A uniformed policeman came to see me the next day in my cell in Vereeniging and asked whether I wanted to lay a

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charge. He said that I should understand that one hand washes the other. I took that as a threat and declined to lay a charge.

32. Some days later I was taken to awaiting trial cells at JVS where I saw Shirish Nanabhai. We slept in a cell and the next day were taken to court where we consulted our lawyer, Kathy Satchwell. Our first appearance was for a remand on a charge of harbouring and assisting a fugitive from the law - Steven Lee - to leave the country.
33. Shirish and I were then held at the Fort awaiting trial. We pleaded guilty to the charge of harbouring and assisting Steven Lee leave the country. Steven Lee, Timothy Jenkins and Alexandre Moumbaris had managed to escape from the Pretoria Maximum Security Prison in 1979. I was convicted and sentenced on 1 April 1982 to three years' imprisonment (two years suspended) on the charge of harbouring an escaped convict namely Steven Lee. I served most of my sentence at the Fort. It was during this time that the inquest into the death of Dr Neil Aggett took place and I was asked to write an affidavit by the Aggett legal team to detail the conditions of my detention. In the affidavit, I also set out the names of the officers that interrogated me.

VISITATION

34. I was only visited once during my detention. This occurred at JVS as described above. This was just after Neil had died.

PRISON CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES AT JVS AND VEREENIGING

35. I was always in civilian clothes during my detention at JVS and Vereeniging and when awaiting trial at the Fort but when serving my sentence I wore prison clothing. At Vereeniging I was kept in a cell which had its own court yard. During

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my 3 day interrogation at JVS I was kept in an office on the 10th Floor. I was then taken to Vereeniging where my interrogation in an office there took place. Only when my interrogation was completed did they put me in a cell in Vereeniging. I was not allowed to wear a belt or even shoelaces at JVS and Vereeniging. The officers took these items away from us upon being detained. The procedure was strictly enforced.

36. I was not allowed access to any books, in my cell or otherwise, but, after a while in Vereeniging, I was allowed a copy of the Bhagavad Ghita. Once I was done reading it, I asked for a bible and one was given to me. This was allowed in Vereeniging after my interrogation when I was in solitary confinement.
37. At Vereeniging one of the African policemen would give me novels to read. I would read these novels at night and return it to the officer in the morning because all of the cells would be searched in the morning and I could not allow the other officers to find the book.
38. There was also basin in the courtyard at Vereeniging that I used for washing myself whenever I wanted. Even at night I had access to the court yard.

IMPRISONMENT

39. After being sentenced to imprisonment, I was imprisoned with some of the most hardened criminals at the Fort. This was unusual as the practice was to imprison political prisoners and criminals separately, but this policy was not followed. However, when I was sentenced I had raised a clenched fist in defiance. When I arrived at the prison, my reputation of defiance had preceded me. The criminals respected this spirit of defiance and never laid a hand on me. Even though they would do horrific things to the other prisoners.

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40. The prison guards would not allow me or Shirish to shower or work. Our lawyer had to approach a court to compel the prison to permit this. Only after an interdict was obtained were Shirish and allowed to shower. The Court did not permit us to work. We were moved to the new Johannesburg Prison for the last three months of our imprisonment and again placed with hardened criminals. However, they treated us with respect. We then had to fight for the right to work afresh and were permitted to work as cleaners.

TESTIFY AT INQUEST

41. I am willing to testify at the reopened inquest into the death of Neil Aggett.

Parmananthan Naidoo

PARMANANTHAN NAIDOO

The Deponent has acknowledged that he knows and understands the contents of this affidavit, which was signed and affirmed before me at MONDEOR on this the 26 day of July 2018, 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.



Judith Masic

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

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