

Seth Sons

1. Seth Sons ("**Sons**") testified as follows:¹
 - 1.1. He was a member of the non-white unit of the Security Branch (SB) based on the ninth floor in the north wing of John Vorster Square. His office was close to the lifts on the ninth floor. He was recruited into the SB by Rooirus Swanepoel. He was the second most senior officer in the non-white's unit, and he was later appointed his own team to lead. He reported to Dirker.
 - 1.2. His day-to-day responsibilities were that of a general investigator which meant he went to the field to gather information and effect arrests if needs be. He was mostly on duty during the week, Monday – Friday from about 07h30 – 16h00, he only worked weekends if he was on duty for that weekend.
 - 1.3. He was not on duty during the weekend of Timol's arrest. While he is not certain when he learned of Timol's arrest he said that he could have learned of the arrest on Monday 25 October 1971 when he got to work. Prior to this he had never heard of Timol and the only time he heard the name Timol was in the newspapers after his death.
 - 1.4. Except for driving with Dirker to the Timol home on 27 October 1971, he never worked on the Timol investigation. When he went to Timol's home that day he stayed in the car while Dirker went into the house. He recalls that there were women sitting on the stoep talking but he could not hear what they were talking about as he was parked a bit far from the house.
 - 1.5. He worked with Dirker from time to time. He knows Dirker played a role in the investigation of bucket bombs. However, he does not recall when and where the bucket bombs were detonated.
 - 1.6. He only found out about Timol's death when he got back to John Vorster Square from the Timol home. He was walking into the police station when he was told that someone committed suicide by jumping from the tenth floor of the police

¹ Transcript, Vol 15, p 1030.

station. He did not go investigate because he did not have the stomach to see a body that had fallen ten floors. No one told him what time the incident happened.

- 1.7. During his police career he never assaulted or tortured any detainees. He read about complaints of torture in the media, but he never saw any torture or took part in any torture. He heard people talk about sleep deprivation, but he never saw it and he did not do it. He did not participate in any of the listed torture methods in exhibit C14. He only heard of some of those things in the media. The only method that he was aware of that was used was sleep deprivation. He attended courses on how to get information out of a detainee without assaulting them or harming them.
- 1.8. During the period that Timol was in detention he does not remember seeing more people (officers and detainees) than usual. He is not aware if there was ever an interrogation roster at the time.
- 1.9. While at John Vorster Square he did not hear anything about officers engaging in cover-ups. He never participated in any cover-ups.