

AMNESTY DECISIONS LINKED TO THE SOWETO SECURITY BRANCH (SSB)
ACCORDING TO TRC RECORDS

1. **Willem Johannes Coetzee 1st Applicant (AM 4122/96) Manuel Antonio Olifant 2nd Applicant (AM 4032/96) Lodewyk De Jager 3rd Applicant (AM 4126/96) Anton Pretorius 4th Applicant (AM4389/96 Ignatius Coetzee 5th Applicant (AM4119/96)**

1.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21039.htm>

1.2 Year: 1987

1.3 This is an application for amnesty in terms of Section 18 of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, No.34 of 1995 ("the Act"). The matter relates to an **explosion at the Jabulani Stadium, Soweto during or about 1987**. The explosion was caused by the Applicants (**Soweto Security Branch**) on the orders of the South African Police authorities. Amnesty Granted

2. **Willem Johannes Coetzee 1st Applicant (AM 4122/96) Manuel Antonio Olifant 2nd Applicant (AM 4032/96) Lodewyk De Jager 3rd Applicant (AM 4126/96) Anton Pretorius 4th Applicant (AM 4389/96) Johannes Meyer 5th Applicant (AM 4152/96)**

2.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21044.htm>

2.2 Year: 1987

2.3 This is an application for amnesty in terms of the provisions of Section 18 of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, No.34 of 1995 ("the Act"). **The matter relates to an explosion at the Council offices at Central Western Jabavu, Soweto, during or about the period 1986 - 1987**. The attack was planned and executed by the South African Security Police in order to boost the credibility of certain **Soweto Security Police agents** that had infiltrated the military structures of the African National Congress ("ANC") in exile. It was necessary to launch such staged attacks in order to maintain the front of these agents who constituted an important source of intelligence to the Security Police. The attack in question was authorised subject to the condition that no injuries or death should result from it and that the damage to the structures in question should be limited. In execution of the order, the Applicants executed the attack by means of a controlled explosion of two F1 hand grenades that were obtained from the ANC in Botswana by the police agents. The two hand grenades were attached to the burglar bars on the stoep of the Council

offices and were caused to detonate by means of a long rope attached to the detonators. Amnesty granted

3. **Willem Johannes Coetzee 1st Applicant (AM 4122/96) Lodewyk De Jager 2nd Applicant (AM 4126/96) Mzimkulu Veyi 3rd Applicant (AM 5421/97) Peter Lengene 4th Applicant (AM4033/96)**

3.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21045.htm>

3.2 Year: 1985 -1987

3.3 DECISION This is an application for amnesty in terms of the provisions of Section 18 of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, No.34 of 1995 ("the Act"). ***The matter relates to two incidents that occurred during the period 1985 - 1987 when explosions were caused at the homes of two councillors, one Matsipe alias Matike at Jabulani and an unknown councillor at Mfolo, Soweto.*** Applicants ***Soweto Security Agents*** participated in both incidents on orders from their superiors within the South African Police. *The background to the incidents briefly is that it was necessary to cause these explosions in order to maintain the cover of certain security police agents who had infiltrated the African National Congress and were ordered to execute attacks of this nature. The explosions were authorised and planned on the basis that no loss life or injuries should result from them and that damage to property should be limited. For this purpose, the police prepared hand grenades with a diminished charge to be used in the operations. These hand grenades were caused to explode on sections of the property where damage would be limited and where no risk to life or limb would be posed by the explosions. Amnesty Granted*

4. **Manuel Antonio Oliphant 1st Applicant (Am4032/96) Anton Pretorius 2nd Applicant (AM 4389/96) Kobus Klopper 3rd Applicant (AM 3762/96)**

4.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21051.htm>

4.2 Year: 1991 -1992

4.3 This an application for amnesty in terms of the provisions of Section 18 of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, No.34 of 1995 ("the Act"). The matter relates **to trespassing on and the surveillance of the house of Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela at Soweto, by the Applicants during the period May 1991 to September 1992.** As part of their official police duties as members of the **Soweto Security Branch**, the Applicants participated in the

surveillance of the house. After information was obtained that Mrs Madikizela-Mandela was harbouring members of Mkhonto weSizwe ("MK"), the military wing of the African National congress in her house, the police decided to do a night surveillance of the property. In the course of this surveillance, the Applicants unlawfully entered the house in order to gather information relating to the alleged harbouring of MK members. At some stage, Applicants became aware of other people who were present in the house, whereupon they fled into the nearby bush where they were later collected by their colleagues. Having carefully considered the matter, we are satisfied that the incident occurred during the course and scope of the employment of the Applicants as members of the South African Police. The matter was clearly associated with a political objective, inasmuch as Mrs Madikizela-Mandela was regarded as a political enemy by members of the erstwhile Security Police. In the circumstances, we are satisfied that the conduct of the Applicants constitute an act associated with a political objective as envisaged by Section 20 of the Act. We are also satisfied that the applications comply with all the requirements of the Act and amnesty is accordingly hereby GRANTED to the Applicants in respect of all offences and delicts arising from their unlawful entry into the house of Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela at Soweto during or about May 1991 to September 1992.

5. **Lodewyk De Jager Applicant (AM 4126/96)**

5.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21111.htm>

5.2 Year: 1985 – 1987

5.3 The Applicant, a former member and senior officer of the **Soweto Security Branch**, applies for amnesty in terms of the provisions of Section 18 of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, No 34 of 1995 ("the Act"). The application is in respect of three incidents: 1. **The unlawful establishment of an arms cache at Suurbekom, Soweto during the period 1985 – 1987. Amnesty granted**

6. **Eugene Alexander de Kock 1st Applicant (AM 0066/1996), David Jacobus Brits 2nd Applicant (AM3745/1996), Kobus Klopps 3rd Applicant (AM 3762/1996), Daniel Lionel Snyman 4th Applicant (AM3765/1996); Nicolaas Johannes Vermeulen 5th Applicant (AM 4359/1996); Leon William John Flores (AM 4361/1996) 6TH Applicant**

6.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2000/ac20084.htm>

6.2 Year: 1989

- 6.3 De Kock gave evidence about the details of the circumstances surround the **abduction and murder of Mabotha**. The other five Applicants gave evidence about the role each of them played in the incident. Potgieter, the implicated person, filed an affidavit giving his version of the circumstances surrounding the killing of Mabotha.
- 6.4 Thereafter, De Kock (**Vlakplaas**) received a telephone call from the **Soweto Security Branch** that Mabotha had once again been arrested and was being held at Marble Hall. he had been involved in ANC activities again. After discussing the matter with Brigadier Schoon and General Basie Smit, De Kock and Bellingan departed from Vlakplaas and went to Marble Hall. On the following morning, De Kock and Bellingan met members of the Soweto Security Branch at Marble Hall Police Station; Mabotha was brought to them and accompanied by Colonel Grobler. They all went to a house in a rural area (farm). There Mabotha was interrogated, assaulted, tortured, among other means a bag and a rubber band was used to suffocate him. His clothes were taken off and he was hung upside down. ice was put in his anus. Mabotha sustained injuries as a result. De Kock participated by assisting in hanging him upside down and suffocating him. De Kock denied that it was Bellingan who placed ice blocks in Mabotha's anus. He stated that he and Bellingan left when the ice blocks were used. That was the first time that De Kock saw such a method of torture and he did not believe it would assist in extracting information. The interrogation started at about 09h00 or 10h00 and lasted until 15h00 to 16h00. De Kock, as commanding officer of Vlakplaas wanted to know what information Mabotha would have leaked out about its existence and about the identity of its officers and men. Information was gleamed from Klopper's affidavit, that from Marble Hall, Mabotha was taken to Soweto where he was further interrogated by Askaris. He was detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act for some six months during 1989 and his detention was determined on 10th October 1989. Sometime shortly before the 10th October 1989, Major Potgieter of the Soweto Security Branch telephoned De Kock and requested his assistance as he believed Mabotha could not be released into the streets and be allowed to be at large. Information was gleamed from Klopper's affidavit, that from Marble Hall, Mabotha was taken to Soweto where he was further interrogated by Askaris. He was detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act for some six months during 1989 and his detention was determined on 10th October 1989. Sometime shortly before the 10th October 1989, Major Potgieter of the Soweto Security Branch telephoned De Kock and requested his

assistance as he believed Mabotha could not be released into the streets and be allowed to be at large.

- 6.5 Amnesty granted
7. **Adriaan Pieter Van Niekerk 1st Applicant (AM 4353/96) Hendrik Albertus Beukes Mostert 2nd Applicant (AM 4403/96) Jacobus Hermanus Engelbrecht 3rd Applicant (AM 4402/96) Charles Alfred Zeelie 4th Applicant (AM 3751/96) Johann Ludwig Du Preez 5th Applicant (AM 4404/96) Gerrit Nicholas Erasmus 6th Applicant (AM 4134/96) Petrus Lodewikus Du Toit 7th Applicant (AM 4131/96) Johannes Velde Van Der Merwe 8th Applicant (AM 4157/96) Schalk Jan Visser 9th Applicant (AM 5000/97) Leon Van Loggerenberg 10th Applicant (AM 5010/97)**
- 7.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2000/ac200059.htm>
- 7.2 Year: 1988
- 7.3 Kidnapping and torture of Bheki Nkosi and murder of Stanza Bopape – Tortured on 10th floor John Vorster Square. – Security Branch of John Vorster Square (Witwatersrand) , Pretoria (Head Office) and Eastern Transvaal.
- 7.4 Bopape was tortured to death and his body dumped in the crocodile infested Komati River. The SB reported a false case of Escaping from Custody in the Vaal Rand (**Soweto**) area.
- 7.5 Bheki Nkosi gave evidence at the TRC Amnesty hearing. Amnesty was granted.
8. **Willem Helm Johannes Coetzee 1st Applicant (AM 4122/96) Lodewyk De Jager 2nd Applicant (AM 4126/96) Anton Pretorius 3rd Applicant (AM 4389/96) Ignatius Coetzee 4th Applicant (AM 4119/96)**
- 8.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2000/ac200173.htm>
- 8.2 Year: December 1986 or 1987
- 8.3 The above Applicants apply for Amnesty for an arson attack on a side hall to the Administrative offices of Soyco in the Ipelegeng Community Centre. A decision was taken, sanctioned by general Ignatius Coetzee, (**Soweto Security Branch and Special Forces**) the 4th applicant to quell the activities of Soyco, whose members were, according to intelligence reports, involved in attacks on policemen, councillors, in arson and riots, in intimidation activities and in crash military training courses. They were joined by Special Forces operatives Naude

and Robey and having prepared a mixture of petrol and diesel to set the offices of Soyco alight, drove to the Ipelegeng Centre in Soweto. The precise date could not be established but according to the applicants it was in the last 2 weeks of December, either 1986 or 1987. Amnesty Granted

9. **Willem Helm Johannes Coetzee 1st Applicant (AM 4112/96) Anton Pretorius 2nd Applicant (AM 4389/96) Lodewyk De Jager 3rd Applicant (AM 4126/96) Ignatius Coetzee 4th Applicant (AM 4149/96) Wikus Johannes Loots 5th Applicant (AM 4149/96) Manual Antonio Olifant 6th Applicant (AM 4032/97)**

9.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/trc-adt-1999.pdf>

9.2 Year: 1987

9.3 All the applicants apply for amnesty for their involvement in attempts to murder or in a conspiracy to murder one Mark Shope and/or one Lambet Moloï and/or one MK Siphò and/or one MK Jackie, first at the Lion Park and later at the Oasis Motel, Gabarone during August/September 1987. **During 1987 the Soweto Intelligence Unit under the command of General Ignatius Coetzee (Applicant) through an informer SWT 180 and other agents and informers successfully infiltrated a MK underground structure in Botswana of which the abovementioned persons were prominent trained members. This unit was active in the Republic of South Africa and specifically in Soweto, and was responsible for recruitment, for training and infiltration of trained cadres and supplying of weaponry into the Republic of South Africa, and the planning of other acts of terror. During the monitoring of this unit, it became apparent that the command structure of the unit set itself the goal of establishing MK- units within the already volatile labour field for the training of workers to commit acts of terror. SWT 180 was tasked by Shope to establish so-called Industrial Combat Units in Potwa in the RSA. Towards the middle of 1987, a meeting was held in Potchefstroom where present were inter alia were present, Commandant Charl Naude of the SADF Special Forces. The applicant Brigadier Loots, Section Commander Western Transvaal and the applicants Colonel de Jager, Colonel Pretorius, and Colonel Coetzee, **all of the Soweto Security Branch.** At this meeting Special Forces requested the support of **Soweto Intelligence** and the Western Transvaal Section of Brigadier Loots to provide the necessary support to eliminate the said members of the MK unit. After a report back to General I. Coetzee, permission was granted to render the necessary support where requested. This was in accordance with a general operational direction dating from 1985 for the Security Branch to where requested, provide support**

to Special Forces. In essence the planned operation was a Special Forces operation. Loots was informed by Special Forces that an attempt would be made in August 1987 during a visit of SWT 180 to Gaborone **to eliminate the said members of the MK Unit at the Lion Park in Gabarone. Loots informed De Jager who in turn informed General I. Coetzee and others under his command. For a reason unknown to applicants the operation was aborted.** During September the Soweto Intelligence Unit was again approached by Special Forces to set up a meeting between SWT 180 and the said MK-members. De Jager asked Colonels Coetzee and Pretorius to liaise with SWT 180, who by then had already been summoned to attend a meeting in Botswana with Mark Shope. **The applicant, Constable Olifant, was tasked to assist a Special Forces operator to set up an explosive device in rooms in the Oasis Motel to be occupied by Shope. This was duly done and would be detonated by remote control. This operation, too, was aborted because Shope and others, for some unknown reason to the applicants, failed to arrive at the motel and Olifant assisted the Special Forces operator to disassemble the explosive device.** At all relevant times the applicants acted in accordance with a general resolution of 1985 and special instructions by General I. Coetzee to support Special Forces whose operation this really was. Amnesty Granted

10. **Willem Johannes Coetzee 1st Applicant (Am4122/96) Manuel Antonio Olifant 2nd Applicant (AM 4032/96) Lodewyk De Jager 3rd Applicant (AM 4126/96) Mzimkulu Veyi 4th Applicant (AM 5421/97)**

10.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21036.htm>

10.2 Year: 1986

10.3 This is an application for amnesty in terms of the provisions of Section 18 of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, No.34 of 1995 ("the Act"). The matter relates to a staged attack during **1986** upon the house of the then Chancellor of Vista University, Professor Stephen Puleramaileng Maphike. The background to the incident is briefly that the Student Representative Council ("SRC") of Vista University had a disagreement with Professor Maphike. An undercover policeman on the university campus, one Frank Langa, was instructed by the SRC to use his ostensible contacts with the African National Congress ("ANC") to arrange for an attack upon Professor Maphike. Langa's ostensible contact with the ANC was a cover story. It was used in order to boost his stature to facilitate his undercover work on the campus. Langa reported back

to Willem Coetzee (**Soweto Security Branch**) on the instruction from the SRC. In order to maintain Langa's front, the Security Police superiors decided upon staging an attack upon Professor Maphike. A group consisting of Frank Langa and Manuel Oliphant, launched the ostensible attack upon Professor Maphike's house in the early hours of the morning on **6 June 1986**. The group threw a Russian-made hand grenade towards the garage where the motor vehicles of Professor of Professor Maphike were parked. Some damage was caused to the garage and some of the vehicles. There were clear orders that the attack should be planned in such a way that there was a no risk of harm to anyone. There were indeed no injuries resulting from the attack. Lodewyk de Jager, who was a Colonel on the South African Police and the superior officer to the other Applicants, authorised the staged attack. The remaining Applicants played different roles in the incident, which is not necessary to specify for the present purposes. Amnesty Granted

11. Willem Johannes Coetzee 1st Applicant (AM 4122/96) Manuel Antonio Olifant 2nd Applicant (AM 4032/96) Lodewyk De Jager 3rd Applicant (AM 4126/96)

11.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21037.htm>

11.2 Year: 1985- 1986

11.3 This is an application for amnesty in terms of the provisions of Section 18 of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, No.34 of 1995 ("the Act"). The matter relates to an explosion at the Klipspruit, Soweto home of a police agent Sebastiaan Reed during or about **1985 - 1986**. The explosion was caused by the Applicants on orders from their Security Police superiors at the time. The background to the incident briefly is that the security and cover of Sebastiaan Reed was compromised as a result of the arrest of certain members of Mkhonto weSizwe, the military wing of the African National Congress. It became necessary for the **Security Police (Soweto)** to remove Mr Reed from his home in order to secure his life. It was, however, imperative to create a credible basis for doing so in order to avoid any suspicion being raised which might compromise the position of Mr Reed. In the result a decision was taken to cause an explosion at Reed's home which would render his moving home, credible. In execution of this decision, the Applicants, with the knowledge and co-operation of Reed, caused an explosion inside the house by means of a hand grenade with a weakened charge. Minor damage was caused to the interior walls of the house. This had the desired effect of creating a credible basis for Mr Reed moving out of Klipspruit. Having carefully considered the matter, we are satisfied

that the applications comply with all of the requirements of the Act and amnesty is accordingly hereby GRANTED to the Applicants in respect of all offences and delicts arising from the explosion at the house of Sebastiaan Reed situated at Klipspruit, Soweto, during or about **1986 - 1987**.

12. **Anton Pretorius Applicant (AM2001/211)**

12.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21211.htm>

12.2 Year: 1981 - 1987

12.3 After the matter was discussed with Applicant's superiors, it was decided that the **Soweto Security Police** should arrange for a **controlled explosion on a railway line near Johannesburg** in order to enhance the credibility of the sources with MK. This incident occurred between **9 April 1981 until 31 December 1987**- Amnesty Granted

13. **W H Coetzee 1st Applicant (Am4122/96) A Pretorius 2nd Applicant (AM 4389/96) J F Williams 3rd Applicant (AM 4375/96) J E Ross 4th Applicant (AM 4377/96) F B Mong 5th Applicant (AM 4154/96) N L Mkhonza 6th Applicant (AM 5420/97) M M Veyi 7th Applicant (AM 5421/97) M L Selamolela 8th Applicant (AM 5419/97)**

13.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21185.htm>

13.2 Year: 1983

13.3 This is an application for amnesty in terms of the provisions of Section 18 of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act No. 34 of 1995 ("the Act"). The matter relates to the abduction and subsequent treatment of **Ms Nokuthula Aurella Simelane** during or about the period **August - September 1983**. The sequence of events constituting the incident will be set out more fully later in this decision. All of the Applicants were to a greater or lesser extent involved in the incident. They were at all material times members of the **Security Branch of the then South African Police attached to the Intelligence Unit stationed at Soweto** in the present province of Gauteng. The Applicants fall into two categories in accordance with the extent of their respective participation in the incident. The participation of Applicants Williams, Ross and Mkhonza was limited to the abduction of Ms Simelane while the remainder of the Applicants participated throughout the duration of the incident, except for Veyi who joined in after the abduction. The latter group of Applicants engaged in an internecine war during the course of the hearing which was conducted between two camps. The one camp, consisting of Coetzee, Pretorius and Mong, was represented by

Mr Visser and the other camp, consisting of Veyi and Selamolela, was represented by Mr Lamey. All of the Applicants testified in support of the applications. Their versions largely coincided in regard to the abduction of Ms Simelane while the respective versions of the two conflicting camps were mutually destructive in relation to the subsequent treatment of Ms Simelane. The interests of the next-of-kin of Ms Simelane were represented at the hearing by Mr van den Berg who indicated in argument that only the applications of Coetzee, Pretorius and Mong are being opposed. Mr van den Berg presented testimony of Gilbert Thwala in support of the case of the next-of-kin. It is necessary to set out the material evidence in more detail. The deceased was allegedly taken and left at the Swaziland border and never seen again. This a subject of a court hearing at the moment.

- 13.4 It is not in contention that the abduction of Ms Simelane was duly authorised by the then commander of the Soweto Security Branch
- 13.5 Abduction – all applicants granted amnesty
- 13.6 Torture – Only Veyi and Selamolela were granted amnesty and the others refused.
14. **Eugene Alexander De Kock 1st Applicant (AM 0066/96) Dawid "Duiwel" Jacobus Brits 2nd Applicant (AM3745/96) Daniel Lionel Snyman 3rd Applicant (AM 3766/96)**
- 14.1 Source: <https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/decisions/2001/ac21252.htm>
- 14.2 Year: 1991
- 14.3 **Murder of Adriaano Louis Bambo March 1991,-** At the time that he was killed he was no longer working for the police. All the applicants were members of the South African Security Police Special Unit, the Vlakplaas Unit, when the events referred to herein occurred. They worked under the command of De Kock who was the Operations Commander.
- 14.4 Manual Antonio Olifant testified that before the relevant time he and the deceased (nicknamed "Strongman" because he was a very fierce fighter) had worked for the **Security Police as intelligence agents in Soweto**
- 14.5 Amnesty granted to the above only.
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