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**AFFIDAVIT OF DR A. K. AKOO**

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**I, the undersigned**

**ABDOOL KADAR AKOO**

**do hereby make oath and state that:**

- 1 I am an adult male with identity number 5010085117087 residing in Pietermaritzburg. For 40 years, I have practiced as a medical practitioner. I am still in practice.
- 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 facts and events that I believe were intentionally deliberately withheld from the first inquest into the death of Hoosen Mia Haffejee, (hereinafter referred to as "Haffejee"). It is my belief that this conduct by the erstwhile South African Police (hereinafter referred to as the "SAP") was aimed at concealing various serious crimes and human rights violations committed against Haffejee during the period of August 1977.
- 4 I wish for these facts to be presented at the re-opening of the inquest for the purpose of establishing the truth as to what happened to the late Haffejee.



## MY BIRTH, SCHOOLING AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

- 5 I was born in Pietermaritzburg and attended Islamia Government Aided Primary School and first met Haffejee or Haffy as I knew him, in 1964. We were both started our standard 7 (now grade nine) at Woodlands Secondary School. We became friends and remained friends. We were in the same class until we completed matric. We decided to go to India to study because of the limited medical seats available due to the Apartheid Governments Political policy.
- 6 It was a laborious procedure to obtain South African passports. We were required to provide proof of non-acceptance to local medical colleges and proof of being accepted at a University in India.
- 7 Unfortunately our passports only arrived after the departure of the cheaper form of transport, Karanja Liner to India.
- 8 Another very close friend of ours, Carumsan Nundkumar who was also our classmate was also accepted to study in India. Haffy and I managed to secure the services of a luxury liner, the SS Cathay to Mumbai, but at about five times the prices of the Karanja.

## INDIA

- 9 In June 1968, Nundkumar, Haffy and I arrived in Bombay and joined Bhavna's College where we were all accommodated in a Hostel as room-mates. About a month or so later, I started receiving copies of Sechaba (The Official Newspiece origin of Umkhonto Wesizwe) addressed to Baboo Akoo, Baboo being my nickname. I was sure that Haffy was behind me receiving the Sechaba.
- 10 Haffy introduced me to many Russian authors such as Tolstoy, Doestovsky, Maxim Gork and Franz Kafka etc. He was always anti-apartheid and generally believed in equality of all.
- 11 We once had a frightening experience when Shiv Sena, a political group belonging to Balthackeray started riots in Mumbai demanding that Maharsashtra be exclusively for the Marathis. Some opportunistic hooligans raided our hostel and stole the belongings of an East African Student. Haffy galvanized us into producing petrol bombs which we used to successfully thwart the mob when they attempted to repeat their shenanigans.



12 We were also invited by Mosey Moola, the then ANC representative in India to the home of Mr Goolan and Mrs Amina Pahad for lunch of a chicken curry followed by a talk by their two sons, Aziz and Essop who were visiting from London and always lectured us on the ANC.

13 After two years in Mumbai, we separated. During the next year Nundkumar stayed on in Mumbai, Haffy stayed in Nagpur, a city in the centre of India. I moved to Mangalore, on the South West Coast of India. We would meet regularly during our holidays.

#### **OUR RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA**

14 I returned to South Africa during October 1976. Haffy had by then already qualified as a dentist and started work at King George V Hospital. We immediately resumed our friendship. He would normally travel to Durban on Monday and return to Pietermaritzburg on a Friday. We spent many weekends together.

#### **HAFFY'S ACUTE SENSE OF AWARENESS**

15 Haffy was very observant and whilst having lunch with my father one day he noticed that my fathers cervical lymph glands were enlarged following thyroid cancer. My father passed on a month later.

#### **OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE POLICE**

16 Once when we were driving in the centre of Pietermaritzburg, we witnessed an accident. An African pedestrian was knocked over by a car driven by a white man. We stopped and rushed over to check on the injured pedestrian and the driver of the vehicle involved soon realized we were doctors. He enquired from us as to where we worked. A few days later he visited me at Northdale hospital to persuade me to bear witness that the African pedestrian had run into his car. It turned out that the driver was a senior policeman who was heading the housebreaking division in Pietermaritzburg.

17 I relayed my experience to Haffy and his comment was to never forget the RED INDIAN saying: "The Paleface, he speak with forked tongue".

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**MATHEE AND SHAIDA**

18 A few weeks before Haffy's demise, Haffy told me that he thought he was being followed. He was bold. He also had two fiancés that I met. The one was a nurse, Mathee and a lecturer, Shaida. He gave them both keys to his flat. I presume he had some schedule to meet them. I did not know them well. He would usually spend weekends at his home in Pietermaritzburg.

19 To me, he was naïve in thinking that both Mathee and Shaida would accept him dating both women at the same time.

**NUNDKUMAR'S VISA**

20 About five days before his demise, our friend Nundkumar who had decided to marry an Indian National arrived from India. He was not allowed to bring his wife back to South Africa so he had decided to settle with her in the USA.

21 He needed to get a Visa from the US Consulate in Durban. Haffy and I decided that Haffy would take Nundkumar to Durban and let him use Haffy's car to go to the Consulate. Nundkumar would then pick Haffy up from the hospital after he, Haffy, had finished work and he, Nundkumar had picked up his visa.

**THE LAST TIME I SAW HAFFY**

22 The agreement was that I would then fetch Nundkumar from Haffy's flat that evening. The last time I saw Haffy was when we had supper at his flat. We sat together till about 22H30. We reminisced about our stay in India and Haffy commented to Nundkumar that he, Nundkumar, was a true blue, meaning that he returned to marry his fiancé.

23 When we parted ways, there was no indication that Haffy was unhappy. He had no injuries and certainly showed no signs of being depressed or anxious

**LEARNING OF HAFFY'S DEATH AND THE IMPACT SUFFERED**

24 Then next morning, unbeknown to us, he was apprehended by the special branch and taken to Brighton Beach police station. On Wednesday morning, I was assisting in the operating theater when his brother, Yusuf, called me to inform me of his death.

*[Handwritten signature]*

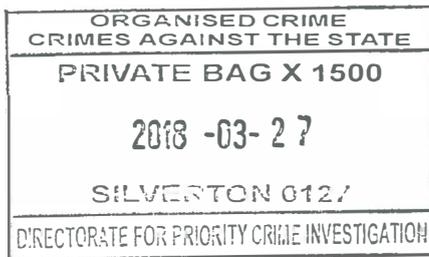
25 I was devastated and attended the funeral. I was too traumatized to see his tortured body. His family, especially Yusuf, or Essop or Prof as I knew him and his mother spent the remainder of their lives in a deeply emotional and saddened state. It was a Herculean effort by our families, financially and emotionally to educate us and Haffy was taken away in his prime. His family never recovered. I always felt that the magistrate's finding that Haffy committed suicide was flawed and biased.

That is all that I wish to state.

I know and understand the contents of this declaration.

I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath.

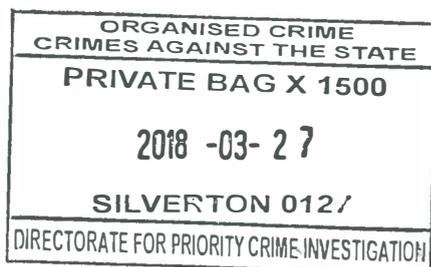
I consider the prescribed oath as binding on my conscience.



*[Handwritten signature]*  
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 DEPONENT

Thus signed and sworn to at PIETERMARITZBURG on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH 2018

The Deponent having knowledge that he knows and understands the contents of this affidavits, that it is both true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, that he has no objection to taking the prescribed oath and that the prescribed oath would be binding on his conscience.



*[Handwritten signature]* *[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten Signature]*

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

<b>AFZAL OSMAN AKOUB</b> COMMISSIONER OF OATHS PRACTISING ATTORNEY 187 BOSHOFF STREET PIETERMARITZBURG 3201
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FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

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CAPACITY: \_\_\_\_\_

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AREA: \_\_\_\_\_

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