

---

AFFIDAVIT OF ISMAIL HAFJEJEE

---

I, the undersigned

**ISMAIL HAFJEJEE**

do hereby make oath and state that:

- 
- 1 I am an adult male with identity number 4307285056086, residing at 60 Mercury Crescent, Northdale, Pietermaritzburg, Kwa Zulu Natal. I am a retired educator. I taught for thirty three years.
  - 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.

SH.

## **BRIEF BACKGROUND: HAFJEES EARLY YEARS**

- 5 Haffejee was my youngest brother. He was seven years younger than me. At the stage when I married, I lived with my parents. He was at that stage studying in India.
- 6 According to me, he was never involved in any politics. I considered our family to be a quiet family. Haffejee never regarded any race as being inferior to him. In as much as Apartheid was practiced, he loathed it. If we referred to any race, particularly African people, in a derogatory or disrespectful manner, he would "bring the house down". He berated us openly if that was ever practiced. In my opinion, he was a good man who epitomized what a decent human being was.

## **MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HAFJEJEE**

- 7 I loved my brother. We were raised to be very close. After he qualified, he was employed at King George V Hospital in Asherville, Durban. He loved my son. Whenever he would come to Pietermaritzburg he would visit. That would be the weekends. He was very fond of children. He was especially fond of my son.

## **SCHOOL, MEDICAL SCHOOL AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES**

- 8 Haffejee completed his schooling in Pietermaritzburg. All the family members, including myself, contributed financially towards his education. We wanted him to be a doctor. He was also keen. I did not have the same opportunities. We were not well off financially. We wanted to give him that opportunity.
- 9 He went to study in Andheri, India. Because of the quota system, he could not get entrance to a university in South Africa. He studied dentistry for a period of seven years.

54

10 After he graduated, he returned to South Africa. During the time of studies in India, he visited a number of other countries. However, he struggled to secure employment South Africa, because the Government of the day refused to recognize his "foreign" degree. Neither was he allowed to open his own practice.

### **HAFFEJEES TRAVELLING TIMES AND WORK ARRANGMENTS**



11 Haffejee rented a flat at Antelope place, Sheddingham Heights, Overport. I know he had to report for work at 8am. He used to visit schools as a dentist. To assist the children in caring for their teeth. Every weekend he came home on a Friday evening. He would leave for work on a Monday morning. He had a white car which he used to travel around. When he visited home, he visited us, or his friends. He always reported to my mum as to where he was going to. He would visit Doctors Akoo and Bookun. They studied together. There was also an Enver Goor who now lives in Pretoria. He visited him as well. Goor was in Pietermaritzburg at that stage. When he visited his friends, I never knew him to stay out on night. He never consumed alcohol. He was a disciplined person. Neither was he the type that frequented night clubs.

### **MY LAST RECOLLECTION OF HAFFEJEE**



12 The Sunday before he passed away, he came to my home in Loop Street, Pietermaritzburg. He played Scrabble with my young son and left at about 22H00. When he left, he reported he was going home. That would be our parental home.

13 He was jovial. Because I was so close to him, I would have noted if something was wrong. I have never known him to be angry. He had no injuries or complaints. That was the last time I saw him alive.

SH

## ON THE DISCOVERY OF HIS PASSING

- 14 I was in teaching at a school at Raisethorpe Secondary School, Pietermaritzburg. The principal summonsed me to the office. I was surprised to see my neighbours, Mr Som Parmesar and Mr Ahmed Suleman, who are now both deceased. I was informed that I was needed at home because Yusuf had to go to Durban to see the police to settle something. Yusuf would remain at our shop when my father travelling.
- 15 I got into the vehicle with them. Whilst into the vehicle, I began to wonder as to why these two people came to fetch me. I could not understand why the principal allowed me to go home to stand in the shop. I tried to ascertain from them as to what had occurred. They did not tell me.
- 16 As I approached the shop, I noticed that the shop was closed. I ran towards the shop window, where a funeral notice was placed. It stated that the shop would not open due to a funeral in the family. Friends and family gathered around me and took me into the house. They then informed me that Hoosen had passed away. I was in shock, was extremely emotional and broke down.
- 17 I saw my mum. She was hysterical. I asked for my wife to be fetched.
- 18 On the same day, I was informed telephonically by a police official that my brother committed suicide at Brighton Beach. I knew that he had been killed by the security branch, because they had a reputation. We feared them. We heard about the torture at their hands. We knew about Timol who had died in custody.
- 19 I was also aware of this because my uncle Goolam Subedar had previously been detained by the security branch and detained for 30 days without trial. Also Mohammed Habib, who was a family friend, had also been detained by the security branch. They alleged assault but never spoke about it. Mohammed had told me of being made to stand for hours in a "motorcycle position". I understood it to be that a person was made to stand in that position as if he was riding a motor cycle. He also had to make those sounds that the bike made.

54.

20 In terms of our culture, the body of my brother was brought home to be bathed. (Ghusl). He was wrapped in calico. I held his head as we washed the body. The late Doctor Motala was present. There was a doctor present there as well. He was white. I do not know why he was there. He may have been brought by Doctor Motala. There was a photographer present taking photographs of the body.

21 When I was holding his head, his head felt "loose". I had to support his head when they lifted him. When I looked at my brother's body, I noticed bruises over certain parts of his body for example his back and his sides. There were multiple brown dots on his body especially on the inner thighs, in and around the genital area. It looked like a burn. To me, his face looked swollen. There were depressed marks in and around his wrists and underarm, genital area. His knee looked like the flesh was removed. It might have been around the knee area. To me, there was no doubt that he was tortured. I could not reconcile hanging with these injuries.

22 Our family had no idea that Haffejee had even been arrested. My eldest brother Yusuf told me that he was informed bluntly, telephonically, to come to Durban to identify his brother. When we were told that he committed suicide, we did not believe it. He was a strong person, emotionally. In Islam, suicide is not permissible. Hoosen knew this. We believe that God gives us life, therefore only he can take it. If one commits suicide, in Islam, it is a sin.

#### **HARASSMENT BY THE SECURITY BRANCH**

23 After the death of my brother, members of the Security Branch, parked their vehicles opposite the family shop, observing who came in and who left.

54

## IMPACT OF HAFJEJES DEATH ON OUR FAMILY

- 24 The death of Hoosen had a huge impact on our family. It devastated the family. My mother was never the same. Yusuf was most affected. He lost his zest for life and dedicated the remainder of it trying to find out the truth of what happened to my brother. He joined "ABDUSA". It was a radical movement committed to change. My father changed too. He used to cry a lot. I could not handle it. Life changed. I cannot describe it.
- 25 Yusuf protected me during the inquest. I did not attend. He told me that I worked for Government. They would harass me. We had no faith in the justice system. The verdict was always in favor of the State. It was always death by suicide, no one to blame. I never believed that my brother could have taken his own life.

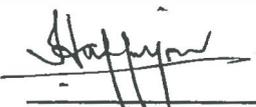
That is all that I wish to state.

I know and understand the contents of this declaration.

I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath.

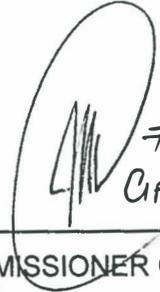
I consider the prescribed oath as binding on my conscience.

ORGANISED CRIME CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE
PRIVATE BAG X 1500
2017 -12- 05
SILVERTON 0121
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DEPONENT

Thus signed and sworn to at PIETERMARITZBURG on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017

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.



7107065-6 W/O  
C.F. KRAMANTSE

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

FULL NAME: GODISAMANG FRANK KRAMANTSE

BUSINESS ADDRESS:  
218 VISAGIE STREET  
2ND FLOOR GENERAL PET JUBERT BUILDING  
PRETORIA  
0001

CAPACITY: DPCI (HAWKS) W/O

AREA: PRETORIA

ORGANISED CRIME CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE
PRIVATE BAG X 1500
2017 -12- 05
SILVERTON 0127
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION