
AFFIDAVIT OF SARAH BIBI LALL

I, the undersigned

SARAH BIBI LALL

do hereby make oath and state that:

- 1 I am an adult female with identity number 440930 0075 081, residing at 545 Church Street, Pietermaritzburg, Kwa Zulu Natal.
- 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 and 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"), amongst other State Departments, 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.

S.B. Lall

BRIEF BACKGROUND: OUR FAMILY

- 5 Haffejee was my youngest brother. I was six years older than Haffejee. My parents, Mohammed Essack Haffejee and Fathima Bibi Rahim were married in Durban. My mum came from India with her parents when she was 12 years. Her parents lived Umlaas Road, Durban. My mother was about 18 years old when they married. Together they had four children.
- 6 The eldest of four children was my brother, Yusuf Haffejee. He was a teacher by profession. At the time of Haffejee's death, he had since retired. Ismail Haffejee is the second born of four siblings. He is still alive I was the third born child. Haffejee was the youngest of the family.
- 7 All my siblings were born in Pietermaritzburg out of the relationship between my father and my mother who was one of two wives.
- 8 When I got married, Haffejee was very young. He was an extremely happy person. He had vibrant personality. He was outspoken. If anything was not right, he would not "beat around the bush". He had very early on made it clear that if he had brought an African person home, or a person of a different race, under no circumstances were we to treat that person differently. Further, that there would be no allocation of separate eating utensils or different food allocated and shared between different races.
- 9 According to me, he was never involved in any politics. I considered our family to be a very quiet, unassuming family.

Abdullah

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HAFFEJEE

10 After I married, I did not relocate to a different town. I resided with my husband and family in Pietermaritzburg, not far from my parental home. We were a close-knit family and I visited my parental home, with my family, almost every weekends. We loved having breakfast together. Haffejee loved my children. He loved ALL children.

HAFFEJEE'S EARLY SCHOOLING AND MEDICAL SCHOOL

11 Haffejee completed his schooling in Pietermaritzburg. To send him to medical school in Nagpur, India, my father borrowed money to educate him. This money was paid back in instalments. All the family members contributed financially towards his education. He was the youngest. The idea was that by educating the youngest, he would have paid it back by educating other members of the family. We were not financially well off.

12 He went to study in Andheri, India. Because of the quota system in South Africa, only a small percentage of non-white students were allowed to study at universities. He did not gain entrance to any South African university. He studied dentistry for a period of seven years in India. He might have visited home at least three times during his studies.

13 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 in South Africa, because the Apartheid Government refused to recognize his "foreign" degree. Neither was he allowed to open his own practice.

14 After some time, he was employed at King George V hospital as a dentist. He would also visit Tongaat and surrounding areas as part of his duties.

AB Lall

HAFJEJES TRAVELLING TIMES AND WORK ARRANGMENTS

15 After securing employment at the hospital, he rented a flat at Antelope place, Sheddingham Heights, Overport. According to my knowledge, he lived alone. We furnished it with second hand furniture for him. On a Monday morning, he would leave our home at 545 Church Street, Pietermaritzburg between 6am and 6:30 am. He would then travel to Durban. My understanding was that he would go first to his flat, where he would refrigerate the meals we had prepared for him and then go to work. I am uncertain as to what time he would go to work. He had his own vehicle. It was a white Alfa Romeo. He travelled to and from Pietermaritzburg with this vehicle.

16 He would return home every weekend without fail. On weekends, he used to laze around, sleep in late, hang around our Sport and Tackle shop, and visit friends and family. He had worked for approximately a year before he passed away. When he met friends, he met them away from home because most of them had been in private practice or had already settled down in terms of marriage. He was not the type that spent late evenings out.

17 He would visit Dr Akoo, Dr Bookun and others. If he left to visit over a weekend, he would leave intermittently and return every so often. He never spent a night out if he was home for the weekend.

AKB

MY LAST RECOLLECTION OF MY BROTHER

18 The Saturday before he passed away, I went to my parental home with my husband and kids. My brother was home. He had come home on Friday to spend the weekend with our family as he usually did.

19 He was in good spirits as usual. He was happy with the children, playing games with them. He played Scrabble. He was very encouraging of the younger children to learn and be educated. He wanted me to find premises to explore my dressmaking skills. He was very encouraging towards everyone wanting to better themselves. I remained at my parental home until Sunday. However, I left back to my own home before he left for Durban on Monday morning.

20 When I left on Sunday, he was so happy. I prepared his favorite meals for him to take with. There was no indication from him that anything was wrong. I never saw my brother angry. He never reacted that way. My brother was the type that if something upset him, he just kept quiet. He was also very accommodating. He was very broadminded.

21 When it was time to leave, I bade him goodbye and wished him a safe trip. I expected to see him on Friday. He was happy. He was the same old happy person that I always knew him to be. He had no injuries, and had no complaints.

Abul

HAFFEJEES DEATH

22 I was employed at Hassim's, a store next to the shop where my parents lived. I am unsure whether it was a Monday or Tuesday, but I was at the shop working when I was told to go home. When I arrived at my home, I heard shouting and screaming. I assumed that someone was fighting. I went back to the shop. I reported to my employer's wife that I was afraid. I thought that people were fighting and screaming. I did not want to go home. She told me, "you must return home." She had tears in her eyes, shook her head and walked away. Another lady accompanied me home telling me that I needed to go home. As I entered the shop, an employee told me that Hoosen had passed away.

23 I became hysterical and starting screaming. I was so overcome with grief that at a stage, someone slapped me to bring me out of that hysteria. People were coming in, and I remember that it was suddenly very quiet.

24 My brother berated me asking me why I was screaming. I told him that this person joked badly with me saying Hoosen was dead. He simply said, "It is not a joke, it is true."

25 My father was not present when my mother was told that her son had died. He used to collect money for the Mosque and to send for the poor in India. He was in the Transvaal region at the time. My mother was a very strong woman. When I saw her on that date, she was trying to calm me down. I was hysterical. I had to be sedated and have moments I cannot even remember.

26 My father returned from Transvaal. Somebody bought a ticket for him. When I saw him, he was calm. I broke down again and he consoled and comforted me.

AB Lall

27 In terms of our culture, the body of my brother was brought home to be bathed. (Ghusl) Only males washed his body. Before they could bring my brother's body in, the body was placed on a stretcher and brought through the shop. It was placed on the floor whilst a decision was taken as to where they would wash and place the body. There were no facilities for the bathing of bodies for non- whites. I watched my mother go towards my brother's body. It was covered with a white sheet. It had blood stains on it. I followed her.

28 She moved the sheet and looked at his face. She touched his face and then covered it again. I wanted to remove the sheet and look at him. My brother Essop stopped me. I saw his face again after the Ghusl. The body was shrouded in Calico. There were hundreds of people that viewed his face that day out of respect.

KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ARREST

29 Our family did not know that Haffejee had even been arrested. When we were told that he committed suicide, we did not believe it. Haffejee was not the type that would even have considered suicide. It sounded bizarre. In our culture, suicide is not permissible. This was known to Hoosen. If one commits suicide, in Islam, it is a sin and you are not permitted to be buried in the same section of the cemetery. There is a section reserved for those that commit suicide. He was buried inside the designated area, that is not outside the cemetery.

ABP

HARASSMENT BY THE SECURITY BRANCH

30 The death of Hoosen had a huge impact on our family especially Yusuf. His focal point in life became about searching for the truth. The family suffered tremendously. Yusuf would hang up photographs of Security Branch Police officials Taylor and Du Toit outside our shop window with a caption which read "Who killed Hoosen?" He was harassed by police officials who would come by and instruct him to remove it. He refused.

31 At one stage, shortly after the death of Hoosen, security branch police officials, arrived at our home at around midnight to search our house. They searched my mum's room as well as Hoosen's room. When they tried to search Yusuf's room, he refused.

THE RETURN OF HAFFEJEE'S CLOTHING

32 After Haffejee's death, his clothing, including the one that he wore when he died was returned to the family. We disposed of the clothing in terms of our cultural beliefs. The remainder was given to charity.

THE INQUEST OF 1978

33 I attended the inquest into Haffejee's death in 1978. All I can say is that there was no justice for my brother. My mother could not stop staring at Taylor when he insisted that my brother committed suicide.



34 Yusuf, on behalf of the family, sued the Minister of Police. An amount of money was paid out to my family. This was distributed to all those that assisted the family financially after the death of my brother. The Professional Fund refused to pay out because it deemed my brother's death a suicide because of the finding of the inquest magistrate. We did not have money to pursue further legal action against anyone.

THE EFFECT ON MY FAMILY

35 Yusuf changed completely. He became politically involved. He was never a recluse and was always jovial. He became completely withdrawn and sacrificed his family. He made it his duty to investigate every avenue he could to find out how my brother died. He passed away before my mum. My father was a very fit person. He was fine before my brother's death. After that, it was downhill. He died just ten years later. He died of a broken heart.

36 My mother changed as well. She relayed to me an incident that happened about two weeks before my brother died. She told me that she had overheard him on the phone telling the other person "before they arrest me, I will have to get my toothbrush." When she confronted him about him, he simply told her nothing was wrong.

37 After his death, she became withdrawn, and would just read newspapers searching for articles on her son. She never attended school but wrote letters to the editor about her son. She was highly intelligent. She passed away in 2011, age 89 years.

Abdullah

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.


DEPONENT

Thus signed and sworn to at PIETERMARITZBURG on this 6th 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.

ORGANISED CRIME CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE
PRIVATE BAG X 1500
2017 -12- 06
SILVEPTON 012
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME- INVESTIGATION


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OF KHAMMAYANE
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

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PRETORIA

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CAPACITY: DPCI (HALLS) W/O

AREA: PRETORIA

ORGANISED CRIME CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE
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