
AFFIDAVIT OF MOHAMED HANEF BHAMJEE

I, the undersigned

MOHAMED HANEF BHAMJEE

do hereby make oath and state that:

- 1 I am an adult male with identity number 461201 5192 08 9
- 2 I have a Bachelor of Social Science degree from Birmingham University which I obtained in June 1972. I was accepted at Cardiff University to do a M.Sc (Masters degree in Social Science) and then a Ph,D (a doctorate) but did not complete it. I became a part time lecturer and tutor in Sociology at University College, Cardiff and various colleges of further education and adult literacy. Later I worked for a firm of solicitors and eventually studied part time and qualified as a Solicitor/Attorney.
- 3 It was necessary to work as I needed an income. I was active in the Anti-Apartheid Movement in London, Birmingham and Cardiff. I proceeded to form the Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement and because I was the face of the organization people thought I was a full time, paid official but we had no funds for this. I did not sign on for social

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security or benefits as this would have been bad for the image of the organization. WAAM was described as the most powerful pressure group in Wales. I was effectively a full-time worker for WAAM and travelled to many areas. By 1981 there were 22 city/town branches and groups in most colleges and universities. Demonstrations and activities became self-financing through membership fees, donations and fundraising events.

- 4 WAAM became part of the international Anti-Apartheid network. I was on the National Committee and Executive of the British Anti-Apartheid movement. For over two decades. I spoke at many rallies big and small. I addressed countless meetings in Wales, the United Kingdom and Europe, I developed a friendship with Mr Enuga Reddy, secretary of the United Nation Special committee on Apartheid and Major General Joseph Garba who was chairman and they invited me to a United Nations Organisation special meeting on the Boycott Apartheid Campaign. I met people from a variety of groups in the United States, especially black groups and met with leading cadres like Stokely Carmichael and Angela Davies in November 1984.
- 5 Apart from teaching I was a human rights lawyer specialized in immigration and criminal law. This also enabled me to meet refugees from different parts of the world and this was very important politically.
- 6 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

- 7 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 "Hoosen" or "Haffejee"). It is my belief that this

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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.

- 8 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.
- 9 I was born in Marikana on 1st December 1946 but grew up in Wolmaransstad in the then Transvaal. My father sent my late brother Ismail, who died in August 2017 and I to an African school because there were no schools for Indians and white schools would not admit non-whites. The local Council then set up a Platoon School for Indians. Two teachers were dealing with pupils ranging between 5 and 19 years and different grades.
- 10 This experience resulted in us becoming politically conscious at a very young age. The white town council did not approve of us attending an African school so after two years we were ordered to leave. In 1957 my father had to move to Natal where he opened a small shop. It was in Pietermaritzburg that I was given a copy of the African National newspaper, New Age and read articles about near to slave labour conditions on the Potato and tobacco farms. I started giving out leaflets from the ANC about the conditions on the farms.
- 11 Haffejee was aware of my political involvement. In fact, many of the residents in Pietermaritzburg knew that I was involved in politics. I formed the Natal Indian Youth Congress in town in 1961. It was linked to Congress Alliance and to the Natal Indian Congress, which worked with the African National Congress. Later in 1962 we worked closely with the ANC Youth League. Kalapen Moodley (Dr K V Moodley, KV) was in Nizamia school in my class and was the first recruit. We became lifelong friends. We were part of the ANC underground. We recruited very carefully, aware of security issues.

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12 Haffejee's mother's sister was married to Goolam Suberdar. Suberdar was a leading Marxist and was my senior and mentor. He owned a tailor shop and ANC/CP luminaries often visited the tailor shop. I met people like Nelson Mandela, Dr Yusuf Dadoo, Walter Sisulu, Fatima Meer, Lilian Ngoyi, Chief Albert Luthuli and many others before 1960 either in the tailor shop or at meetings and conferences. Frequent meetings were held at the back of the tailor shop with the leaders even after 1960. Despite being older than me, he was a very close friend. He introduced me to Mr Harry Gwala (Gwala). Both Suberdar and Gwala introduced me to political literature and advised me to form the Youth Congress. They were members of the Communist Party. I was asked to join and later introduced KV to the network.

13 Hoosen's family and our family were close. Because of my well known political involvement, I was approached by Haffejee in 1963. He was 13 years old and in primary school. He heard that I was in charge of a study group from Goolam Suberdar who had previously discussed Haffejee with me, but I was concerned about his age. Suberdar laughed and reminded me that I was just eleven years old when I got involved in politics with him and Gwala. When KV and I were convinced that Hoosen was a good guy I discussed underground work and our future as ANC/CP and Umkhonto recruits. I started to give him elementary Marxist books and pamphlets and stuff on South Africa.

14 It was Gwala that told Suberdar and myself that we should think broadly and pointed us in the direction of creating ANC/CP/MK cadres. We were young but consciously aware of what we were doing and the challenges that we faced. It was Gwala who told me that Apartheid forced us to become men when we were young.

15 The lectures in Pietermaritzburg were initially led by me. At first, we told members that it was the Youth Congress but as time progressed they learned that it was part of a bigger picture. These lectures would take place at the HYMA (Hindu Young Man's

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Association) room or at different schools, including Woodlands High School. All meetings were in secret at every venue. At school we had our school books open so if other pupils or teachers came by we pretended we were studying. Although we were relatively young, we were aware that we had to strive to make a difference. Our political discussions involved what needed to be done to make that difference and fight against Apartheid. The discussions focused on our struggle history, world revolutions pertaining to Russia, China, Cuba and Vietnam. In January 1962 I was recruited into MK (Umkhonto we Sizwe). I advised Gwala that Dr KV Moodley should also be approached and recruited. This was done later in the year.

16 In terms of leafletting, boycott campaigns and other activities, we were more active than the elders. I started at the age of 11. K V and I were giving out leaflets during the state of emergency in 1960 and after. By the time we were 15 /16 we became key activists and were in touch with comrades in Durban, Johannesburg and other areas. Leaflets were urging people to stand up to apartheid. After the State of emergency in 1960 most elders of the Congress movement were conspicuous by their absence. Some of the elders were under banning orders or under constant surveillance. Others were scared of being arrested as they were detained during the 1960 state of emergency. Haffejee was one of the keenest in wanting to do things and we became very close. He wanted the groups to be bigger and talked about Umkhonto type activity.

17 At the lecture sessions and discussions, we discussed the South African Communist Party/ANC, MK and the future of the group. Slowly, we became a rock-solid bunch. Despite surveillance we had no arrests. We said to the groups (there were several) our task was to rebuild networks and recruit more people. Nelson Mandela was arrested outside Howick in August 1962, the Rivonia arrests in 1963, the imprisonment of the Durban/Natal High command and MK in 1964 sent shockwaves throughout the country

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and the movement. I explained to Hoosen and the group that this was not the time to blow anything up although we had limited knowledge of sabotage.

18 There were certain special branch members who were of Indian descent. There was a sergeant Naidoo and a Sergeant Jack Maharaj who openly expressed their interest in me. We were told by the caretaker of HYMA that the special branch was enquiring about our meetings there on Saturdays and Sundays, so we stopped using the rooms there. Shiri Vishnu School was also under surveillance and the headmaster said that Jack Maharaj was asking questions about me and the group, so we stopped using that school. They often questioned me in the street and I denied any existence of a group. In 1963 I was questioned for several hours but denied any knowledge of a group, but they obviously knew a lot more than they were revealing.

19 In August 1964 we were giving out leaflets about boycotting an event in Northdale at the Civic Centre where the Minister of Indian Affairs, De Wet Nell was speaking. Two people Viveg Naidoo and Krish Pillay were seen by an informer who phoned the Special Branch resulting in their arrest at their homes that morning, 12 August 1964. The vice-principal of Woodlands came to my matric class to inform me that they were on their way to collect me. They picked me up at 10H30. When I got to the Special branch office in Loop Street, Viveg and Krish had their fists clenched. This was our agreed sign that they had not spoken. Early in the afternoon they were released. I was held for about 12 hours and they questioned me at length. There was a senior officer from Johannesburg there, who was very threatening, and he told his officers that I should be questioned standing up, which was extremely painful. Two white officers were planning their questions in Afrikaans and then questioning me in English. This gave me vital few minutes to think of appropriate responses. They questioned me about Mandela's visit in 1960 and 1962. I said I knew of the visit but denied meeting him. They said I had met him. They questioned me about MK and the CP. I said I had heard of them but denied any involvement. From the line of questioning it was

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obvious that they had information and it was difficult to fathom whether they were acting on information they received or their surveillance. As it was very common to detain people under the 90-day Detention Act, I was preparing myself for the worst. They asked if I spoke Afrikaans and I said no. After some investigations the Johannesburg officer came back and started slapping me because he found out that I had a distinction in Afrikaans in standard six. They questioned me about the Durban sabotage trial and my visits to Durban and Johannesburg, but I said these were purely social. They wanted to know if I had passed on information to Johannesburg about Bruno Mtolo who was a State witness in the Durban trial. I said I didn't know who he was. This together with many questions convinced me that they knew a lot more, but I didn't think they had sufficient evidence. Much to my surprise at approximately 11pm they released me and drove me home. I was constantly under surveillance for months and had to lay low to protect the others. This had a very serious effect on me and despite being one of the best pupils in my matric class I barely scraped through though the teachers were expecting a merit pass.

20 As I involved myself deeper into politics, we would constantly change our venues where we would meet. This was to prevent detection by the security branch. One of the venues which we also used for our political meetings was a store room of Haffejee's uncle Khalek's shop at the bottom of Church Street. This made his uncle uncomfortable and worried him. This was because of my arrest and the peoples' assumption of my political involvement. In June 1965 we organized a nationwide boycott of the Royal Show Grounds because the management said they would "limit the numbers of non-white children because of serious overcrowding by them in previous years." The call for a boycott was almost unanimous and this remained the case for many years thereafter until 1990. They didn't question me, but they approached Dr Chota Motala and asked him if the NIC had anything to do with it. He said no and argued that it was so successful that it must have been a professional job. The main people involved were

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Hoosen, my brother Ismail, Vivek Naidoo, Krish Pillay, Thirpartic Pillay (Tippy) and myself. I was surprised not to be questioned but very pleased at the same time.

21 Between 1963 and 64 we organized a petition asking for a swimming pool for non-white as so many of our youngsters were drowning in the local river. Thousands of signatures from school children only were presented to the City Council. I was questioned by Jack Maharaj and admitted I had collected the signatures and said that I did it alone. I further argued that it was not political to request a swimming pool and that was the end of the matter. The swimming pool materialised in 1966 when I had already left the country, and this again involved K.V, Hoosen and I but I did the bulk of the work. Family friends at Girls High School collected signatures as well.

22 During August 1965, the net was closing in. The surveillance had increased, and I was followed even when we went to play cricket in Durban. NIYC contacts who were involved in underground structures informed me that they kept asking questions about me and Pietermaritzburg and I should watch my steps. I was then asked by sergeant Naidoo if I had any links with the ANCYL and I said no. This got me very worried because they didn't pursue this line of questioning before. He mentioned Truman Magubane and Siphon Hamilton Kubheka. I denied knowing them. It was now obvious that they knew about my links because these names were very accurate. With the demise of the Durban network as a result of the 1964 conviction of the Natal High Command and many arrests and convictions, I had to "work" in other parts of Natal like Durban and Ladysmith. KV had already left the country in June 1965. Life became difficult as a result of surveillance and I was followed regularly so I told the guys to keep away from me. The Special Branch regularly came to our shop at 473 Church Street and this was scaring my parents. They also told them that I was selling the ANC newspaper, the New Age at the Matcheni in Retief street. I then stopped doing it and African members took over. My father insisted I left the country, so I went to the

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United Kingdom. I expected to be picked up again, but this didn't happen and I only relaxed when I got on the plane at Johannesburg airport.

23 In the UK I worked to set up study groups wherever possible because I was unhappy with the security arrangements of our comrades in exile. In time, Dr KV Moodley in India and Yusuf Bhamjee, my brother in Dublin became the key people in the political network in their areas. The study groups maintained a very high level of security. I started these groups wherever I met South African students, but they were always done secretly. The ANC meetings were general meetings and too many people were present. The groups I organized were cell structures with maximum of 5 people. The ANC/CP did not generally know about the groups but Dr Yusuf Dadoo, Reginald September and Joe Slovo were privy to what was going on. The Study Groups discussed the history of South Africa, Marxism, Leninism, underground work and urban guerilla warfare. In some cases, if an individual wanted to be introduced to people like Dr Yusuf Dadoo, I would arrange it but there was an agreed manner in which we would meet and only he and I were privy to this. The same arrangements were made with Joe Slovo and Reginald September.

24 During July 1973, I underwent guerilla action practice at the Palestinian Guerilla Network. Until then I was only theoretically aware of these tactics from books, articles and information exchanges. I had met people from Al-Fattah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. I was put through an intensive course in explosives and sabotage and weapons training. I was there for three months. I paid for the trip myself and did not discuss the matter with anyone. This is the first occasion when I have ever revealed this information. In 1973 I also went to Bombay where I stayed for two weeks. I went to Palestine and to Bombay on my own and financed the trip with my own money. I had planned on this and saved money over a period of years. This was an intensive two-week course in Bombay. I regarded it as a training school which covered the political history of South Africa, basic Marxist theory, strategy and tactics, coding,

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encoding, urban guerilla struggle, explosives and weaponry. The Bombay cell took copious notes. Hoosen was a member of the Bombay cell. I did not meet with other contacts of KV or Hoosen as we used to work on a need to know basis.

25 I stressed that all information HAD to be committed to memory. This was not always feasible because of the amount of material. For example, the history of the movement alone or the development of Capitalism in South Africa could not be done in just a few pages. All people who went through such training were told that they should consider "smuggling" the information through by having it reduced into tiny print and then sewn into the lining of clothes etc. to be innovative. This was a very strict requirement for their own security.

26 It would appear that Haffejee took the original notes to South Africa because at his inquest, they were exhibited. When I returned with a television crew in March 1992 to South Africa who were doing a programme on my political life in South Africa and abroad I learnt from Dr KV Moodley and Yusuf Haffejee the brother of Hoosen about the notes at the inquest. In my opinion, this was a serious mistake and against the security advise that we were given. I was told by my late brother Ismail that Hoosen had met with them on four occasions and discussed various aspects of the struggle. Present were Hoosen, Ismail, the Late Thumbie Naidoo and Thirpartic Pillay (tippy).

27 Hoosen came to London in August 1976 and stayed with his aunt Rabia Rahim. When she went to Italy for a pre-booked holiday he came to see me in Cardiff. We had intense discussions and then I took him to Ireland with me. He had met several of the colleagues in a Dublin cell and we went through a similar course that he had in 1973, which was a good refresher for him.



28 I therefore saw him for the last time when he left for South Africa from London in September 1976. The day after his death, in August 1977, my brother Yusuf phoned me in Cardiff and I was devastated by the news.

29 I went to London and met Dadoo and Slovo and informed them that Haffejee was an ANC/CP member, recruited by me. When Dr Chota Motala who was part of the inquest came to London and advised us on the inquest, Dr Yusuf Dadoo arranged through Defence and Aid Fund and Amnesty International to finance it. This had to be done as enough money was available from Amnesty and the Defence and Aid Fund and they covered many inquests and costs of political trials in South Africa.

30 In all my time as a political member I was well aware that it was never our policy to take your life if one was apprehended. It was well aware that if I was apprehended I would have to hold out for at least 24 hours. We learnt this from the Algerians who would hold out for at least 48 hours before telling any truth. We realized that the torture of the security branch was quiet brutal and 48 hours would be too long for us.

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
2018 -01- 09
SILVERTON 0127
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION

M. H. Bhanyee

DEPONENT

Thus signed and sworn to at Peterborough on 2018-01-09

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
2018 -01- 09
SILVERTON 0121
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION


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CF KHAMANEY A-E
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

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CAPACITY: LIABILITY OFFICER (INVESTIGATION)

AREA: PETERBOROUGH HEAD OFFICE (DPCI - HAWKS)

ORGANISED CRIME CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE
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SILVERTON 0121
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION