

---

**AFFIDAVIT OF RABINDRANATH BOOKHAN**

---

**I, the undersigned**

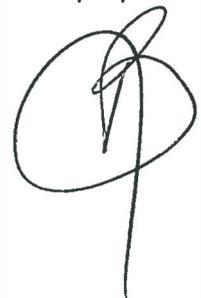
**RABINDRANATH BOOKHAN**

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

- 1 I am an adult male with identity number 451223 5030 087 residing in Pietermaritzburg. For 43 years, I practiced as a Dentist. I have now retired.
- 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 on 23 December 1945 in Pietermaritzburg. The Haffejee family was known to me from the 1960's. Haffejee's brother Ismail was known to me. We schooled together at Woodlands High School where I was the head prefect in 1963. Our families lived in close proximity to each other. Yusuf was Haffejee and Ismail's elder brother. We lived in Longmarket Street, Pietermaritzburg whilst they lived at Church Street, Pietermaritzburg. After I matriculated I was not accepted to study medicine in South Africa. Only two seats would be available for Indian students at the medical college. In search of a better life, I applied to study in India.
- 6 I left for India on 10 May 1964 on the ship SS Karanja to study medicine. I arrived in India on 6 June 1964. Because of the poor quality of education in Apartheid South Africa, where physics and chemistry, two requirements for medicine, was not taught to us, we were at a disadvantage in comparison with students from India. The standard of education in India was extremely high. We struggled to complete. The students of India were in a class of their own. When we got to India, we had to go for extra classes. It was a difficult time because many students were studying physics and chemistry for the first time. South African students were reserved only a limited amount of seats. This, other than Apartheid South Africa, also disadvantaged us.

## MEETING HAFJEJEE IN INDIA

- 7 I began to study Dentistry in 1969 at Government Dental College, Nagpur. Some of our colleagues were Doctors AB Gangat and Fathima Sacoor. I met Haffejee in 1971 at Nagpur Dental College. He resided with Doctors MC Salot, EB Chohan, and MC Kamdar at 16A Sadik Building, Mount Road, Sadar Bazaar, Nagpur.
- 8 In Nagpur where they used to live, there was previously a resident Mehmood Dewjee who returned to East Africa after completing his studies. Haffejee or "Haffy" as he was known to me, took his place in terms of sharing the residence. I got to know him because we met regularly at this flat where families lived at 16A Sadik Building. We shared meals together and socialized together. At no stage did he ever give me or any

of our colleagues the impression that he was involved in politics or attempted to influence us politically. Haffejee was a "happy-go-lucky". In fact to me he was classified as "young blood", easily influenced and happy to please someone. He had a girlfriend at a nearby hostel. I also had a lady friend there. When there were social functions for foreign students, he would even lend me his motorbike to escort her whilst he would use a rickshaw. He was a good, kind hearted individual.

### **MY RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA**

- 9 Once I qualified, I returned to South Africa in 1973. I could not secure employment because the Apartheid Government did not recognize our qualifications. It was regarded as a "foreign: qualification. The government had forced us to leave our country to be educated elsewhere. When we returned, we were could not be employed because they refused to recognize our qualifications. It was expected of us graduates to work for two years under white supervisors. We would then have to write an examination to see if we were qualified. For ten months, I sat on the pavement, with a medical qualification, selling mangoes, tomatoes, onion and potatoes.

### **MY EMPLOYMENT AT KING GEORGE V HOSPITAL**

- 10 In March or April of 1974, I secured employment as a dentist at Jubilee Mission Hospital, Hamanskraal. I then transferred to King George V Dental Clinic, Asherville by the end of that year after losing a colleague in a horrific accident at Laudium, outside Atteridgeville, the same year. I travelled from Pietermaritzburg to Durban on a daily basis in 1975.

### **THE ARRIVAL OF HAFJEJEE AT KING GEORGE V HOSPITAL**

- 11 Haffejee arrived at King George V Hospital in 1976. I together, with Drs Peer and Panday welcomed him into our team and orientated him. We went to different prisons and schools to render our services.



### **THE FLAT AT ANTELOPE PLACE, OVERPORT**

12 Initially Haffejee used to travel daily to and from Pietermaritzburg. In January 1976, my spouse and I moved into our new flat which was at 5 Sheraton Gardens, Brickfield Road, Overport. It was a one bedroom flat, and there was stage when Haffejee resided with us for about 6 months until he acquired his own flat. He was a very good friend to both my spouse and I. He would often spend the evenings with us. His flat was at Antelope heights, Antelope Place, Overport.

### **MY INTRODUCTION OF HAFFEJEE TO MADHI PALIANDI GOVENDER**

13 I encouraged Haffejee to strike up a conversation with one Madhi Paliandi Govender (Govender) when she came for treatment at the hospital one day. She was a nurse at the Tuberculosis hospital. She was an extremely attractive woman. She was smart, petite and very eloquent. He struck up a conversation with her.

14 There was a time when he once brought her home to our home for supper. I presume it might have been a Sunday night. It was apparent that they were courting each other. After they had left, my wife asked me what Haffejee's intention was with Govender. I told her it was none of her business. At this point, she told me that Govender was clearly in love with Haffejee and had expressed the intention of wanting to marry him. I broached this subject with Haffejee and his response was that he was not serious about her and thereafter began to "cool off" the relationship with her. This might have been in early 1977.

15 I am aware that Haffejee was also involved with a lecturer at University of Durban Westville. Her name was Shaida Shaik (Shaik). I am uncertain as to whether he was still involved in the relationship with Govender when he got involved with Shaik or not. What I do know is that the one day, he went to Cape Town. When he returned, he told me that Govender had also gone with. I asked him jokingly why he was "carrying coals to Newcastle" in the sense that there were so many other girls in Cape Town, why would he take someone whom he had broken up with? I asked him as to what he thought he was doing, why was he involving himself with Govender again. He told me that she had found his reservation details, had booked her own ticket and booked the same flight as him and followed him to Cape Town.



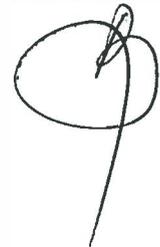
- 16 I saw him regularly at work thereafter. He was his normal happy, jovial self. I resigned at the end of May or June 1977 to start my own practice in Pietermaritzburg.

#### **THE LAST TIME I SAW HAFFEJEE**

- 17 The last time I saw Haffejee was on 31 July 1977, a Sunday afternoon at 15h00. It was my son's first birthday party. It was 15h00 and the party was over. As I was about to step out of the house, Haffejee walked in. He appeared anxious and requested to speak to me. I told him that I was going to drop a relative at their home and that he was welcome to join me. He did not accept the invitation. He told me that he had a letter to show me, and that he received information from a colored nurse, employed at King George V hospital (Dental Clinic) and that she (the nurse) had overheard Govender reporting Haffejee to the Special Branch. He told me that he would see me the following week and left. Before leaving he said he would stop outside my house that Monday morning, to pick up my cousin Rupa Maikoo. He would have dropped her at University of Durban Westville. That was the last conversation I had with him.

#### **LEARNING OF HAFFEJEE'S PASSING**

- 18 On Wednesday morning, at about 8am, Haffejee's eldest brother Yusuf, contacted me telephonically at my surgery in Raisethorpe. He informed me that he had just being informed that "Haffy" was picked up by the Special Branch and that he was found dead or hanging in police cells. He was unsure whether it was true or not. He was going to Durban to try and ascertain whether it was true or not that Haffejee was dead.
- 19 I immediately telephonically contacted Ken Soni(Soni) who is my cousin and reported to him as to what I had just heard. I knew that he was close to Soni as we socialized together. In a way I wanted to warn him because I knew that him and Soni were friends. Yusuf had told me that the special branch had picked Haffy up. I also informed Dr K V Moodley telephonically as well. He said to me that I "should warn the guys at Northdale hospital". I was upset with him. I felt that here I was, phoning to inform him to warn him because I felt that the special branch would not have picked up Haffy for a parking ticket, and he was telling me to warn the" guys" at Northdale. I did not know who he was talking about or what he was talking about.



## **THE FUNERAL**

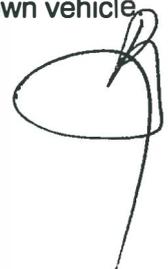
- 20 I attended the funeral. I observed the body of Haffejee. The bridge of his six front teeth was missing. I had worked on his teeth in January or February 1977. He complained that the front teeth was loose. I had to forcefully remove it and re-cement it firmly. When I saw him, it was missing. I had seen the injury on his body. It might have been from pictures shown to me. They were numerous, serious injuries. To me it looked like they had been inflicted by electric shocks or burn marks of an electrode.
- 21 There was an Eddy Chengiah who attended the funeral. He was studying in India with us but never qualified. He never studied with Haffy and never knew him. He struck me as been the odd one out because the moment he saw me, he disappeared from the funeral. Dr K V Moodley to my knowledge never attended the funeral.

## **THE ARREST, DETENTION AND RELEASE OF SONI**

- 22 I did not see Ken Soni at the funeral of Haffejee. I saw him again on Thursday after the funeral of Haffejee at his home. I had been informed that he had been arrested but released that Thursday morning. I went to his home at 132 Centre Street, Overport. He refused to speak inside his house and insisted we speak outside in the garden. He was visibly scared and shaken. He was upset, very apprehensive and constantly watching if someone was watching us. There might have been a journalist there. I cannot remember his name. I cannot recall what Soni had said to me. I met him a few times thereafter. He was still traumatized and shaken.

## **SONI'S QUICK DEPARTURE FROM SOUTH AFRICA**

- 23 Shortly thereafter, Soni began to make arrangements to leave the country. He subsequently left the country within a few months. He left virtually penniless. He has since 1977 only come back once into the country. Even then, it took a lot of convincing from me to spend a short time in South Africa. He stayed with me. He has not again returned to the country. He did disclose to me that Haffejee might have brought a parcel and put it into the vehicle that Soni was going to repair. He used to repair vehicles at his home. He was a panelbeater who worked from home. He had built his own vehicle. He was very talented.



24 Dr AB Gangat (Gangat) was known to me. He married Dr Fathima Sacoor.(Sacoor) They were courting each other. Gangat , Sacoor and I travelled by ship to India to study. Gangat is now late. We were very close friends. I am aware that Gangat was picked up by the special branch on Thursday, after Haffejees death, at King Edward Hospital, the dental clinic, from the tea lounge. Farouk, Gangats friend, found him on Thursday afternoon, disorientated, walking around the area of Stamford Hill Post Office.

25 I was never approached by the special branch. However, there was a time when I stepped outside my home one evening. I found it strange that there was a vehicle parked outside my home. A man was seated in the vehicle. What was strange was that he was reading a newspaper in the dark. He looked suspicious and I felt I was being watched.

#### THE EFFECT OF HAFJEJEE'S DEATH ON ME

26 After Haffejee's death, I felt angry. I was of the opinion that his life was needlessly wasted. His youth and inexperience was taken advantage of by senior colleagues that behaved in a cowardly manner by putting him on the "frontline" and looking after their own interests. In my heart, I can never forgive those who were instrumental in placing Haffejee in that position.

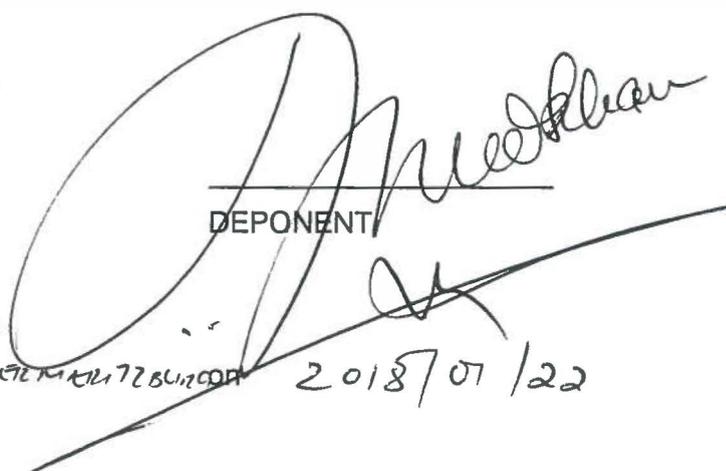
That is all that I wish to state.

I know and understand the contents of this declaration.

I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath.

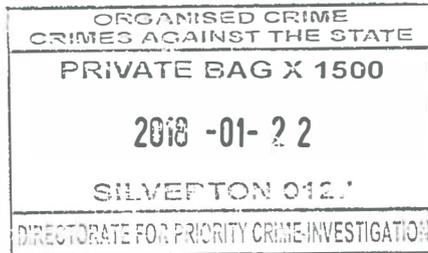
I consider the prescribed oath as binding on my conscience.

ORGANISED CRIME CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE
PRIVATE BAG X 1500
2018 -01- 22
SILVERTON 0127
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION

  
DEPONENT

Thus signed and sworn to at *P18702M2172BL/001* 2018/01/22

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.



*7107585-6 410*  
*CF. KRAMAYAE*  
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

FULL NAME: GODISAMAY FRANK KRAMAYAE

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

NUMBER 218 VISAGE STREET  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CECILIA PIET JOUBERT BUILDING  
PRETORIA  
0001

CAPACITY: INVESTIGATOR (DPCI - HAWKS)

AREA: PRETORIA CENTRAL

