
AFFIDAVIT OF MATHEEVATHINEE BENJAMIN

I, the undersigned

MATHEEVATHINEE BENJAMIN

do hereby make oath and state that:

- 1 I am an adult female with identity number 5110250111087 residing in La Mercy, Kwa-Zulu Natal. I also go by the nickname of "Mathee".
- 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.

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MY EDUCATION, FAMILY AND CAREER

- 5 I am formerly from Pietermaritzburg. My maiden name was Govender. I was born in Umzinto and raised in Pietermaritzburg. I completed my secondary school education in Durban. My father was a principal in the area of Pietermaritzburg and the surrounding areas. He eventually retired as the principal of Clairwood Boys High.

- 5 I retired as a Lecturer at Durban University of Technology. I was a nurse by profession. I received my basic training at King Edward VIII hospital. I received training in midwifery in Cape Town in 1972. I worked at RK Khan Hospital for some time. In 1977, I transferred to King George V hospital. I worked as a senior nursing sister in operating theatres at the hospital. I had extensive experience dealing with patients that had cancer and those that contracted tuberculosis.

MEETING HAFFEJEE AND THE HAFFEJEE THAT I KNEW

- 6 I met Haffejee when he was a dentist at the said hospital. He was feisty. To me he came across as being arrogant, like a "know-it-all." In the end, I regarded him as a master manipulator. He was self-opinionated and my experience with him left a bitter after taste in my mouth. He thought he could change anyone. I knew that he was on a recruitment drive, looking for young, vulnerable, impressionable males and females.

- 7 The purpose thereof was to recruit them to be part of the fight against the Apartheid Government. From the first time he met a person, he wanted to know everything about that person, for example their friends, family, strengths, weaknesses, relationships, how they commuted to and from home etc. He would want to know about your lifestyle, if one had issues with your parents he would capitalize on it.

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HAFFEJEE AND I, AND THE ROLE OF RELIGION

- 8 In my family, I was the only daughter. I had four brothers. Haffejee always thought I was spoilt. I, on the other hand, always wanted to be treated equally. I insisted that my father treat me equally. I did not want my brothers to fight with me. I was averse to masculine strength. Haffejee considered this my weakness. In my mind, I did not want to bother my father with my "girly shenanigans" for example multiple relationships with boys or involving myself in relationships which were not good for me. When it came to my father, my shield was always up. I protected him. My father was the main man in my life. Haffejee knew that I would never do anything that would bring disgrace to my father.
- 9 I was also acutely aware that my father should never hear that I was dating someone outside my caste and religion. I was Tamil and Haffejee was Muslim. I felt that Haffejee made a fool of me. I told him about my relationship between my father and myself and that if my father heard something that he did not approve of, he would be upset about that.
- 10 When I met Haffejee, I was a self-assured, independent person. I was a care-free person. No one could subject me to any pain or hardship. I recall meeting Haffejee for the first time. He came to theatre to book patients for dental surgery. He "eyeballed" me. He looked me up and down. And spoke to me in a "whatever" manner. He called me whilst in surgery several times. That put me in the "dogbox" with the matron. I did not want to get in trouble with the operating theater matron. He asked me out thereafter. He was persistent and I eventually said yes. I was curious about him. I wondered why he had the guts to pursue me. To me, he was a challenge. This was in approximately January/February 1977. I purchased a Mazda, white in color, just about the time I met Haffejee. My colleagues pointed fingers at me when they found out

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by Haffejee. They said that the security branch was paying for the vehicle. This was not true. Haffejee's friends spread this rumor. This was done by a white dentist whose name I cannot recall. The second Mazda was purchased after my son was born.

11 The relationship between Haffejee and I was not exactly "romantic". Like most men, he thought he knew a lot. He was condescending, because he thought he had an education. He wanted to know about my theater matron. She was an immigrant from East Berlin. He referred to her as "Feuhr". He hated her immensely. He followed the philosophy of Stalin. I was just grateful to have a job. I felt he jeopardised the "bread and butter" of those who followed him. He would use "subtleties" to get one into trouble. Against my better judgment, I got involved in a physical relationship with him.

12 He had a flat at Antelope place, in Overport. I think the flat may have been on the second or third floor, towards the middle of the building. I would often visit him at the flat and stayed over with him. I would only visit when he was there. He gave me a set of keys. He would say bad things about my father. My father was a strict principal and he would tell me how badly my father treated his staff. Haffejee would get his information from people, as if he had "antennae" and he would look at all angles of an issue. I felt that Haffejee was jealous of the relationship I had with my father. He was, however, very scared of my father. By reputation, he was a strict disciplinarian.

VISITS TO HAFJEJEE'S FLAT

13 Haffejee was very politically involved. He was always on a recruitment drive trying to identify and recruit young people to form part of the cell. His intention was to have a cell or group where he could influence and promote his beliefs. He believed that we lived in a rotten state. He wanted to turn it into a communist state. I knew that he often have "visitors" but I was not allowed to be there if they were there. If he told me he was not available I knew what he

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meant. He would have students over from University of Durban Westville (UDW) at this flat.

THE OTHER WOMAN

14 His guests included a female lecturer from UDW who lived opposite Haffejee's flat. She was originally from Pietermaritzburg. I do not know her name. Haffejee was hurtful. When we went to the movies, he loved going with me and other woman as well. He did that several times. He would love to have a woman on either arm. He would tell me I am his girlfriend but he would still belittle me. I hated it. He would also invite people over to his house parties at his home. There would be many students at his home. It was a social thing. He loved the extra people and the drama that came with it. He would often roll a "Zol" roll and showed me how to do it as well. We also used mandrax. It was a terrible thing to do and smoke. He would often taunt me with his relationship with the woman from UDW. He would use it against me.

15 In April 1977, the woman from UDW came over to Haffejee's flat for the first time. He also invited other friends over. I cooked for them. There was an unknown Indian doctor that attended as well as another white man. His family might have known of me because Haffejee mentioned it. He told me that even if he wanted to marry me, I would not be accepted because I was Tamil and he was Muslim. The lady from UDW was Muslim. He told me that they would never have agreed to him marrying someone from outside his religion. I never spoke to her after he died.

16 I saw the woman from UDW once or twice when she went to his flat. The one time was when we had to help Haffejee prepare for a house party. I might have just greeted her only. I did not want to speak to her because she was the "culprit" to all the bad feelings between Haffejee and myself. I addressed the issue with him because his conduct hurt me. He simply told me that his friends were his problem, and that if I could not put up with it, I should leave. I did not

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leave. I cared deeply about him, I was not the reason why things were not going well between us. I was not happy with this arrangement but it continued.

MY DISCOVERY OF SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE AND SUSPICIOUS METALS IN HAFFEJEE'S FLAT

17 One day, Haffejee was not at his flat. I was there as I used to stay over some times. He worked from 08h00 to 16h30 Monday to Friday. Over weekends, he went home. He would leave on a Friday afternoon and return on Sunday evenings. I cannot recall that he would return on a Monday morning.

18 Whilst I was tiding his flat, I discovered literature on how to train communists. I found it in a specially designed "book". It felt and looked like a book but the middle part of it was empty. It was wrapped in a lovely colored green cloth, like the one that covers the Quran. It was kept in the top drawer of his bedside. The literature itself was about training young, impressionable people. It also explained who is who in the Russian hierarchy. The purpose of this literature was to recruit and start a subversive group and create havoc. He told me once that when he was done with me, I would lead this group against my father and the matron. He also asked me one day that if he instructed me to kill my father, would I do it. I said yes to impress him.

19 At some point, I also found a large collection of bits of metals and nails. To me some of the metal bits look like they could be used to make bombs, they looked like shrapnel. I thought that it was a bit odd to have lying around one's home. I figured out a portion of the training material. I wondered how many people Haffejee would kill if they did not agree with his Communist philosophies. I kept this find to myself and never confronted him.

INVOLVEMENT OF SECURITY BRANCH

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20 For some period of time, we were on relatively good terms. We continued to see each other. I last saw Haffejee about a week to ten days before he died. When he was arrested, we had terminated the relationship. We broke up because he consistently accused me of doing "funny things" like reporting him to the security branch. He said I had talked to them. He gathered this information because of the weird ways he had about himself. He always considered himself smarter than everyone else. If he heard something, he automatically assumed it would be me that said it. I do not know if someone in fact had indeed "sold him" out to the security branch. He did not return my calls and called me a "snitch". He was of the view that I sold him out to the security branch. He was aware that the security branch were conducting surveillance on him. He was an astute, observant person. He did once observe a white guy in a non -white area. He picked up on this. I knew this white guy. He was part of the team working with Captain du Toit. He also said this because there was a car parked diagonally opposite his flat. He said those were my friends. I never threatened to report him to the security branch and I do not know why he said that. I contacted him telephonically at his flat the last time I spoke to him. That would have been the last conversation we had. I felt undignified about that call. I felt undignified about the call. It was obvious that he did not want to talk to me. I felt I was pursuing him and he was not interested in me. I felt undignified for a lady.

MY REACTION TO HIS ARREST AND MY SUBSEQUENT SUICIDE ATTEMPT

21 Prior to Haffejee's death, I knew no one from the security branch. I was scared of the police. My cousins were arrested and jailed by members of the security branch. When Haffejee was arrested, I did not know of the arrest. I heard about it from someone at work, a Muslim pharmacist told me. She was concerned as well as to what would happen to him. It was a shock to my system to learn that he was arrested near the hospital. I felt bad and ashamed and totally out of control when he was arrested because he was still my friend. I was worried about him, concerned for his safety and his well- being. I was not courageous and shocked out of my wits. In an attempt to take my own life,

I ingested toxic medication. I tried to kill myself. That is how I felt about him, He was my closest friend. I felt that I could not get out of this "mess".

22 My colleagues found me and I was admitted as an in-patient, given psychotherapy and invasive treatment for some weeks. I learnt that Haffejee had died during this admission. It might of being a Dr KV Moodley and Head of the Department where I worked that would have told me. KV treated me as a psychiatrist. I was told that Haffejee had committed suicide. I was horrified. I thought that people might think that I had something to do with his arrest and detention. My colleagues and the theatre staff asked me as to what I had done to get him arrested. They all thought I had something to do with it. To me, I had done nothing wrong. At no stage was I ever entertained with booze and cash by security branch members.

MEETING AND MARRYING LT MOONSAMMY/BENJAMIN

23 Lieutenant Moonsammy (Moonsammy) was a member of the security branch in Durban. He was in charge of the Indian Section of security branch members at Fischer Street. I am uncertain as to which floor they utilized. Moonsammy changed his name to Joseph Benjamin. I knew Benjamin for quite some time before Dr Haffejee died. He came to see me at the hospital in April 1977. He was alone. He came to just say "hello". He attempted to ask me out. I declined. But he was a persuasive person. I did not know he was married. Before Haffejee died, I accepted his advances because he threatened me with disclosure as a snitch. I was referred by him as a snitch. It was the power he had over me. He handled me as an "informant". I later married Moonsammy or he was later known, Benjamin. Benjamin often approached me at the hospital during my nightshifts. He would be accompanied by "Shrewds". He was one of the warrant officers. His surname was Govender. He worked with the security branch with my husband. Gops is Mohun. He too was a warrant officer at the time. He was also with the security branch. The purpose of the visit was to ascertain whether I had been to Haffejee's flat, whether anyone visited him and whether they brought any literature. I would give them an update on

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events that may have happened on the multiple visits. I was paid money in cash by Benjamin. This would be done in my flat in Reservoir Hills. The amount would be about R200 in cash every six weeks. I did sign for it on a piece of paper. The piece of paper would be brought by Benjamin or one of his lieutenants. Benjamin would take some of the money and say that he had expenses. He would manipulate me and take that money. For a long time, I received payments from Benjamin and the security branch because it was documented. This was in exchange for information on Haffejee and his activities. It stopped when Haffejee died.

24 I was aware that the information I gave about Haffejee compromised him. I was knee deep already and I gave them the information about the subversive literature. I felt I was not telling lies, not telling a story, I was telling the truth. In any event, I concluded, the security branch would come to know about these things because they had a way of finding out about these things. They could have slipped into his flat. I also told them that he had trained in India, that he had gone to Russia or another communist country to complete his terrorist training. Haffejee had told me this in confidence. He said he wanted to recruit us to have sufficient numbers for his cell. He was secretive in his beliefs but he trusted me. I shared this information with the security branch.

MASTER KEY

24 The literature found in his flat presented at the inquest was not something that I had given to the security branch. It might have been that they had gained access into his flat because he had a Yale lock on his door. They might have had a master key. When he was arrested, I assumed that they might have arrested him on something I had told them. It was a difficult time.

DELHI RESTAURANT

25 I know of Delhi Restaurant in Grey Street Durban. I used to frequent that place quiet often with friends. I have never met any security branch members

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at Delhi Restaurant. I had no family members working for security branch or in the security branch. I never gave them a key either. I know of Colonel Steenkamp. I did contact Colonel Steenkamp and reported Haffejee in April 1977. I was told that I would also, like Haffejee be under surveillance. I gave him information telephonically that I had information on a certain Dr Haffejee, and that I was friends with him and had access to his flat and that I had found incriminating literature on communism and how to make home- made bombs, arsenal and how to put together a cell group etc. I also told him that it was camouflaged in a hollowed out Quran. As a concerned citizen, I would like security branch to investigate him and his activities. I gave them no literature. I never allowed them access into the flat. If I had other information later, I had to communicate this through my handler. That would be Benjamin. If they manipulated me into letting them into Haffejee's flat, I do not know. But I remember one instance where I went to the flat where I had to retrieve my clothing before Haffejee died. Shrewds or Govender was with me. They had me under surveillance. I also felt at the time, that they should know I was going to the flat. Shrewds was there. I told him where I was going. He came in with me into the flat. Haffejee was at work. I accept I had a key. I collected my stuff. Shrewds was in the flat. It was not a big flat. I did not see Shrewd take anything from the flat. The idea was for him to look at the flat. It would have been during the four months period from April to August 1977, that Shrewds and I was in Haffejee's flat. It would have taken about 15 minutes to sort out my stuff. Shrewds could have done what he needed to do in the 15 minutes. The hollowed out Quran was still there when Shrewds visited. I felt it was evidence. I do not know why I did not show it to Shrewds then. To my knowledge I knew that Haffejee met with people in his flat to recruit them. But I never told this to the security branch.

PROTECTION BY THE SECURITY BRANCH

26 I know Doctor Robin Bhookan. I also know MD Gopal. I called him Gops. He also worked for the security branch and was working for the security branch when Dr Haffejee was arrested. Benjamin was also present. After Dr Haffejee

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died, the Security Branch kept in touch with me. I had been threatened by the Haffejee family and Haffejee's associates. The security branch "created the impression" that they were protecting me.

27 I later on, married Benjamin. Before marrying him, we lived together for a while. We had a child together first. I started this relationship because he offered to keep me safe from the Haffejee family. He promised to keep me safe but he also threatened me that if I did not go with him, he would expose me to the Haffejee family. I wanted a child and it was convenient for someone to take care of me. At that stage before I married him, we had one child only. Benjamin did not provide for me or my child. The security branch pressured him about this. A white Afrikaner Lieutenant Colonel from Social Welfare interviewed me and I told him that I was under duress. But I was also pregnant with our second child. We got registered. My son Jeremiah was born in 1980. Prior to Benjamin marrying me, he was married with five children. He left that family and we started a new family together. I pretended that everything was ok.

THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

28 At the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Benjamin was subpoenaed. He refused to testify. But I knew that Benjamin and the security branch members had beaten Haffejee up because Benjamin told me that. After Haffejee died my husband Benjamin told me about what had happened to Haffejee. We were already lived together at this stage and had a child together. He use to taunt me to make me feel bad about what happened to Haffejee. According to him, Haffejee had hung himself with his pants or a sheet. It was reported that Haffejee could have been strangled. The condition of his face was also reported on. This could have led to the deduction that he was strangled. He told me that as a result of Haffejee being so arrogant and such a know it all, he, Benjamin had given him special treatment on torture methods with a shifting spanner or a "pinchis". He told me that they also mutilated his genitals. According to Benjamin, Haffejee was so self -assured, never pleaded for

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mercy or asked for anything. He never needed anything. In my mind, I knew that Haffejee would never have taken his own life, because he loved life.

29 I do not recall some of the names of the members who were present when Haffejee was detained. Taylor I cannot recall if he was there. Captain Du Toit was part of the team that arrested Haffejee. I heard of a Colonel Steenkamp but I spoke to him telephonically only once. **My husband wanted to go before the TRC and admit his role in the killing of Haffejee.** But he did not because he said it would jeopardise his life and that of his family.

ABUSE

30 Benjamin often called me a stupid woman. He used the fact of me giving information on Haffejee against me. He was very abusive and often threatened me. I tried reporting to him to the South African Police Services and Social Services. **The security branch forced him to marry me.** I always felt if I opened a case against him, he would destroy or buy the docket. I once was in a place of safety for 4 months where I stayed anonymously. He was also extremely abusive to his previous wife as well.

31 Regarding Haffejee's death, I was suspicious about his death. I heard that he had numerous injuries to his body and that his neck was broken.

JURGEN WIEBER

32 I know a man by the name of Jurgen Wieber. He was German and we worked together and met at Groote Schuur hospital. He was a specialist anesthesiologist at Groote Schuur hospital. This was before I transferred to RK Khan hospital. The relationship between the two of us was romantic and a physical relationship. He gave me moral support when I was in Groote Schuur hospital. The relationship continued for at least two years after I transferred to RK Khan hospital. When I began to see Haffejee, Jurgen had gone to America and had already left the country. We kept in contact until early 1980. The idea was to upgrade and go over to Germany.

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33 I recognized a copy of a letter addressed to Jurgen dated 20th May 1977. I wrote that letter. It is my handwriting. I am shocked and cannot comment about the contents. I know about post being uplifted. My husband told me about it.

34 After Haffejee died, I went on holiday to the UK for a few weeks with a colleague of mine, a trained nurse, Veena Maharaj. We met and stayed with a colleague whose name I cannot recall.

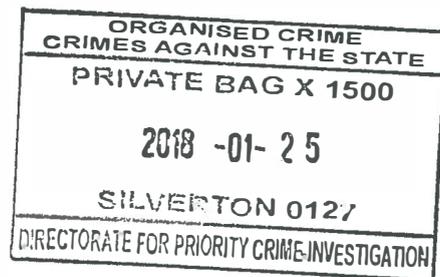
35 I do not recall meeting any specific cousin of Haffejee at the hospital being treated for tuberculosis. We were not allowed to just visit family members. Or make social visits.

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.



Benjamin
DEPONENT

Thus signed and sworn to at *LA MERCY* on *2018-01-25*

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.

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ORGANISED CRIME
CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE
PRIVATE BAG X 1500
2018 -01- 25
SILVERTON 0121
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION

 710 7025 6 410
C.F. KHEANANYAE
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CAPACITY: INVESTIGATOR (DPCI - HAWKS)

AREA: PRETORIA HEAD OFFICE - CENTRAL

at Benjamin

ORGANISED CRIME
CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE
PRIVATE BAG X 1500
2018 -01- 25
SILVERTON 0121
DIRECTORATE FOR PRIORITY CRIME INVESTIGATION

VEROGRAM
VEROGRAM

AAN
TO

Dr. J. F. Wieber.

119 Appeltown Street,

Boston,

Massachusetts, 02116.

U. S. A.



TWEEDE VOU—SECOND FOLD

NAAM EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER
SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

M. Gardner

133 Platt Drive

Esipingo 4001.

Natal

Rep. of. South Africa.

INSLUITINGS WORD NIE TOEGELAAT NIE
ENCLOSURES ARE NOT PERMITTED

VERS DIE TWEE SYKLAPPE, DAN HIERDIE EEN—SEAL THE TWO SIDE FLAPS FIRST, THEN THIS ONE

EERSTE OOP

TO OPEN, CUT THIS FLAP FIRST

EERSTE VOU—FIRST FOLD

At the end of this letter, I do not think you will be able to contain yourself much longer; inevitably, shall soon be to anger. NO!! I do this because I love you so very much and need you so much that it is in me I pressed the issue a little harder. Law, Jingen, should I or should I not look for just. Times running out and I am anxious. I do want to miss this opportunity. Please understand ~~deliberately~~ literally do anything to spend even the outest period of time with you, being loved and all more loved is not much to ask.

Lots + lots of Love, Mather.

This is a letter of the nursing sister who betrayed your son, Hoover. She has been well paid for the job she now drives a brand new mazda.

20th May, 1977.

Dearest Jürgen,

It's been a hundred eyes since I last heard from you, you gorgeous man. Gee! I do miss you dreadfully. There is absolutely nothing that matters to me anymore - just the urgency to get to you soon. But with your silence it makes even day-dreaming a painful experience. However I shall exercise a little more patience before receiving consent for my proposed visit to you.

~~I am in a need of the stimulation you can offer me. I am not complaining about my present way of life but there are no intrigues any more, especially in my sex life. Anyway it's a good opportunity to experiment with abstinence!!~~
Mathee! do you believe me??

Jürgen, now coming down to serious business - I am at present leading the most complicated life imaginable, and my pretty little head cannot quite cope all the time, especially that I am not an intelligent snob. Jürgen now quite seriously this intrigue is quite weird - want to know more - when I see you!! Please!!

Could you possibly see me as an address?? Yes? No?
Well I am sure at present - playing as many as 3 roles all mixed into one person in the form of Mathee. I love it all tremendously - it suits my mysterious personality.

Jürgen have you ever been involved in espionage?? Just a question - will verify all questions + answers when I see you. Are you now bursting with curiosity?? Beautiful. Do you feel like persecuting me to hell - even more beautiful. Oh! I should not have said that. I shall be punished.

Jürgen all I need is to go on holiday, to relax to be beautiful not just to any place, not just to anyone, but especially to you - why? because you're the only worthwhile human being I know in this whole wide polluted world.

I am positively going mad - and I will be absolutely mad if you do not allow me to visit you this year. If you see I have a strange feeling that I may be killed at a young age either in a war or something dreadful may happen to me. So with that in mind my next desire is to do what I fancy now because there is no future. Strange but true. Well actually I have reason to feel this way. Explains when I see you.

Jürgen please do not destroy this letter as I had thousand of things to discuss but prefer not to do so on paper.