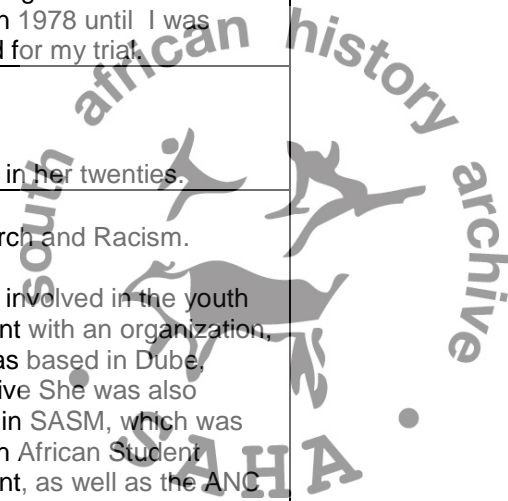


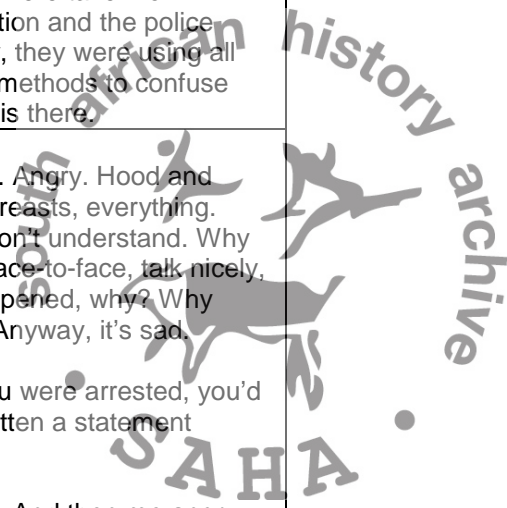
INTERVIEWEE	Joyce Dipale Tiego Masinga (Husband), Tsanki Lekgoatla (Brother)
DATE OF INTERVIEW	11 April 2007
PLACE OF INTERVIEW	Johannesburg Central Police Station



Question	Answer
<p>Could you tell us your names and when you were detained at John Vorster Square?</p>	<p>[Tsanki] I'm Tsanki Leakgotla, I was detained in 1976 December, I'm not so sure about the date, and was detained for my political activities.</p> <p>[Joyce] Joyce Dipale.</p> <p>[Tiego] I'm Tiego Masinga, I was detained in 1976 on 31 December. I didn't stay for too long, as I was charged the following year 1977, I think around February then re-detained again here at John Vorster in 1978 until I was acquitted for my trial.</p>
<p>How old were you when you came in here?</p>	<p>[Joyce] '76?</p> <p>[Tiego] She was in her twenties.</p>
<p>And, what was your political involvement at the time?</p>	<p>[Joyce] Me. Church and Racism.</p> <p>[Tiego] She was involved in the youth movement with an organization, which was based in Dube, Youth Alive She was also involved in SASM, which was the South African Student Movement, as well as the ANC underground.</p>
<p>Do you remember what happened on the day that they came to take you to John Vorster Square?</p>	<p>[Joyce] Diepkloof and then Soweto, one day and then John Vorster Square.</p> <p>[Tiego] To Protea Police Station then to John Vorster Square.</p>
<p>Can you describe how you were brought here?</p>	<p>[Joyce] Ten of them or twelve of them. Meeting at Diepkloof. Eleven or twelve o'clock at night. Twenty or fifteen of them.</p> <p>[Tiego] The leadership of the Student Movement was having a meeting at night when they were raided by the South African Police. That arrest led to the trial of the SSRC in 1977.</p>



<p>When they brought you at John Vorster, did they take you straight to interrogation?</p>	<p>[Joyce] Fifteen or twenty of them. So too much. So everybody one cell. Everybody I suppose, interrogation, one, one. Thirty days or so, I don't know but thirty days or so, everybody, torture, everything. Same thing alone so I'm sure everybody I suppose.</p>
<p>When they took you to interrogation where did they take you?</p>	<p>[Joyce] John Vorster Square. Somewhere there (points up). This much and then four or five men and then hood and then electric shock, everything. I don't know. [Tsanki] It was almost on a daily basis that they were taken for interrogation and the police generally, they were using all different methods to confuse whoever is there.</p>
	<p>[Joyce] Probably. Angry. Hood and torture, breasts, everything. Why? I don't understand. Why at least face-to-face, talk nicely, what happened, why? Why torture? Anyway, it's sad. [Tiego] When you were arrested, you'd never written a statement Joyce? [Joyce] Probably. And then me angry so no talk. Why torture? So I don't talk. So angry. Rape or what, I don't care. No talk. That's why Bloemfontein alone. Angry that's why no talk never. Go ahead, torture, it's fine, I don't care. Bloemfontein and then come back and then after that Number Four. Why torture at least you know, never mind. One day talk. One day read. Aphasia come back. Read and write and talk what happened. Why? John Vorster Square. My brother, Tsanki, my husband, Baby, everybody what happened. Why suddenly? My brother what happened? Hang, why hang? Same thing repeats.</p>



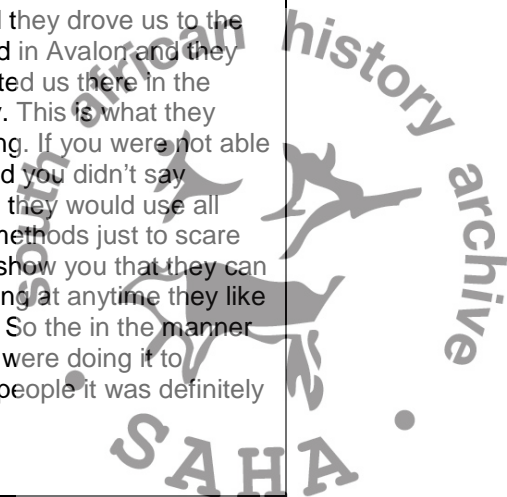
Aphasia one day talk. Book.
Long time I had stroke. That's
why I'm angry. ANC shuttle
O.R.Tambo shuttle but angry
and keep quiet and (indicates
writing) but now stroke so again
one day, book. Half a book long
time ago but now aphasia. One
day. My brother, everybody '76,
what happened, why?

Torture two and a half years.
Torture. Now Gabarone, rest.
Gun again. Four guns. Why?
South Africa no more and why
suddenly Gabarone. Why? I
don't know. Then Swedish
Embassy, hospital and then
Geneva. Then suddenly my
brother, torture again. Same
story. That's why book, you
understand?

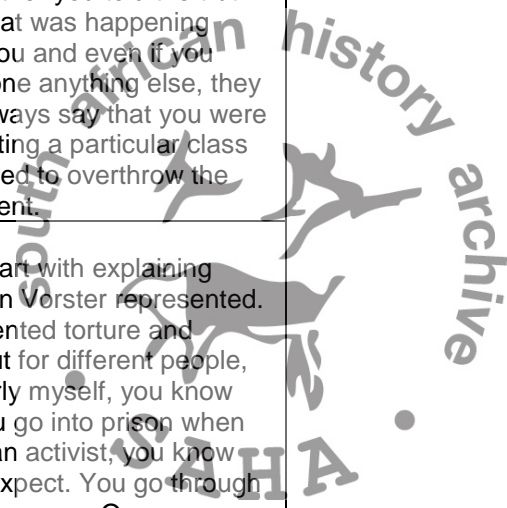
Now suddenly, torture again,
God and me. Read and write
why God? Nobody knows, you
know? I don't smoke or drink, I
don't know why, nobody knows.
Suddenly aphasia, no read and
write but one day don't worry,
soon, pray, God why Job and
everybody restore completely? I
told God long time ago, racism
so clique or God, I don't know
but anyway. God and me soon
restore completely, God.
Torture, yes. I don't mind
torture. Racism, you
understand? But God and me?
Strange. At least John the
Baptist, Job, restore, why God
at least read book at least. I
know what happened, why
suddenly? My mother at least
50s toyi-toyi. That's why long
time ago learn ANC, what
happened. I'm tired. Angry
sometimes. John Vorster
Square and Gabarone.

[Tsanki]
You could hear how she
expresses herself about what
she went through. Just like
most detainees, they reach a
point where they can't even
express themselves when they

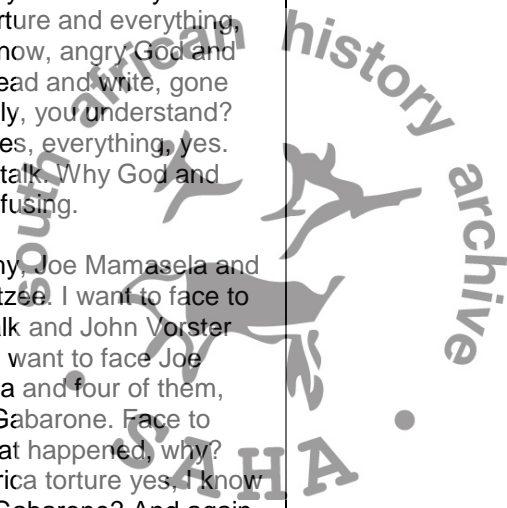
	<p>come to what they've undergone through interrogation.</p> <p>However the interrogation that was taking place here, we were called at different times and people were taken to different places. Sometimes you would think that someone is on the 13th floor or 14th floor and when they come back they would tell you that they were outside this building. They were being interrogated somewhere else.</p> <p>In my case, they took me from Protea and they brought me here and then they took us again from the cells here in the night and they drove us to the graveyard in Avalon and they interrogated us there in the cemetery. This is what they were doing. If you were not able to talk and you didn't say anything, they would use all sorts of methods just to scare you and show you that they can do anything at anytime they like with you. So the in the manner that they were doing it to different people it was definitely painful..</p>
<p>What does John Vorster Square represent to you as a family?</p>	<p>[Tsanki] John Vorster was the head of state. So he represented a different class all together. Our people had no say in that government. On the basis of that, it was representing the White community and for us it was representing the people who were fighting injustice in this country. Whenever you come here, you know you are between death and life. You have people who died in this building. My cousin brother was hanged right in this building.</p> <p>[Joyce] Rape. Torture. Same story. And</p>



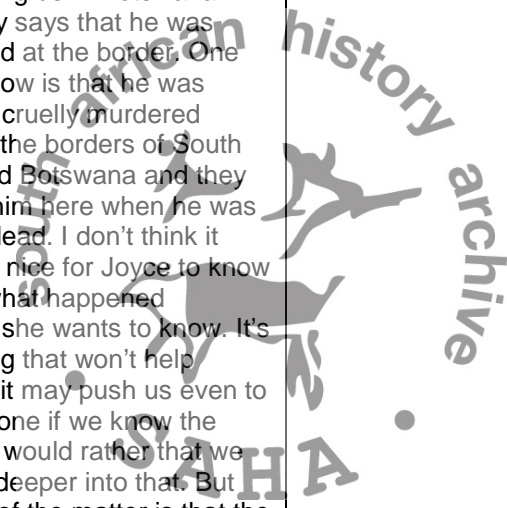
	<p>women. Gabarone. Four guns. Why? What happened. South Africa no more and coming back, why torture again? Angry sometimes, but anyway, Tiego?</p>
<p>How was John Vorster Square different compared to all the other prisons?</p>	<p>[Tsanki] John Vorster Square has always been different. It has always been different because of its nature of how they murdered and killed people here. It was a story that before we even came here we knew that was happening. Even non-political prisoners were murdered in here. So it represented White supremacy in that sense. They didn't even care whether you told the truth about what was happening around you and even if you hadn't done anything else, they would always say that you were representing a particular class that wanted to overthrow the government.</p>
<p>When you came out of detention what kind of effect did it have on you?</p>	<p>[Tiego] I could start with explaining what John Vorster represented. It represented torture and death, but for different people, particularly myself, you know when you go into prison when you are an activist, you know what to expect. You go through these processes. Our experience is quite interesting because I was in prison even in exile. I was locked up in Mozambique, locked up in Botswana. Tortured there. So it's something that I always anticipated would happen. It's not a good thing, it's very negative. Sometimes it threatens people, sometimes it makes them weak. Other people come out of detention mentally disturbed. Come out of jail with ill health when they went in healthy and so on. People got poisoned in here. Many of us were subjected to poisoning and stuff like that.</p>



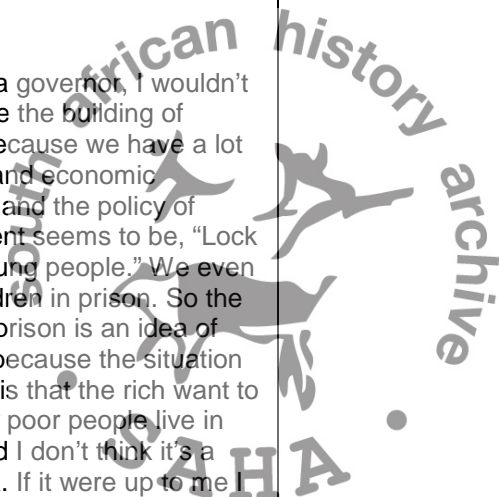
	<p>As I say when you go into prison you always have to make sure that you prepare your mind psychologically, you may not stand up to torture, sometimes you break, it depends on each individual. But prison is not a nice thing, it's terrible. But my experience is different to Joyce because I was always determined not only to be arrested but even to die, so it doesn't disturb me even today. I went through too many hazards in life, prison was just one of them.</p> <p>[Joyce]</p> <p>That's why me. Exactly same thing. Torture and everything, yes. But now, angry God and me. No read and write, gone completely, you understand? Torture yes, everything, yes. One day talk. Why God and me? Confusing.</p> <p>That's why, Joe Mamasela and Dirk Coetzee. I want to face to face to talk and John Vorster Square. I want to face Joe Mamasela and four of them, Whites, Gabarone. Face to face. What happened, why? South Africa torture yes, I know but why Gabarone? And again gun? Again? No way. This one, South Africa, I don't mind. Racism and stuff like that, I don't mind but why Gabarone?</p>
<p>Can you put us in the picture of what happened in Botswana?</p>	<p>[Tsanki]</p> <p>I think my brother is the best person to respond on this one, as he was also there at that time.</p>
	<p>[Tiego]</p> <p>Yes, there was a raid in Botswana where Joyce and a group of women were staying, Well it was normal procedure, you know that the state declared total war against so called terrorists in the neighbouring states.</p>



	<p>I think that the night Joyce was shot they had a three-pronged attack on Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe. The same night. Ruth First was assassinated and Joe Qabi was assassinated in the same year during the same period. So it was the policy of the government to pursue those who they thought were terrorists so Joyce was one of them and that's what happened.</p>
<p>What happened to Moabi Dipale?</p>	<p>Well it's quite a complicated story because we don't really know the truth. At one point he was visiting us in Botswana. One story says that he was kidnapped at the border. One thing I know is that he was probably cruelly murdered between the borders of South Africa and Botswana and they brought him here when he was already dead. I don't think it would be nice for Joyce to know exactly what happened although she wants to know. It's something that won't help because it may push us even to kill someone if we know the truth so I would rather that we don't go deeper into that. But the truth of the matter is that the death squad that Joe Mamasela belonged to, what we call askaris, was well trained. He killed not only Ernest but a lot of young people in this country and his story is well known. So I would rather not dwell too much on what happened. I can just say that he didn't die a reasonable death. Many things must have happened to him before they threw him into this place.</p>
<p>So, in the end his body was found here?</p>	<p>[Joyce] Yes, here at John Vorster. [Tiego] Well, even that was a bit complex, because the parents</p>



	<p>did not want to get involved. His mother did not want to bury him. They said the police should even eat him if they could. It took a lot of resolve to convince them to pick him up here. They were not even interested even to look at the body so it's not a nice story.</p>
<p>What do you think of John Vorster today? The name has changed, but the building's still the same...do you think it's possible to separate what happened then from what it is now?</p>	<p>[Tiego] If I may take just a different approach. First of all I don't like the idea of the prison. The South African Police are not behaving differently from the police of the past unfortunately because they still carry the baggage into the future.</p> <p>[Joyce] Half half.</p> <p>[Tiego] If, I were a governor, I wouldn't encourage the building of prisons because we have a lot of social and economic problems and the policy of government seems to be, "Lock up the young people." We even have children in prison. So the idea of a prison is an idea of cowards because the situation right now is that the rich want to see many poor people live in prison and I don't think it's a good idea. If it were up to me I would have changed this prison into something like Constitution Hill or a school, to give it a better perspective. Even coming here, I wasn't very keen but it's always good to revisit history. A prison is a prison, it won't change. I'm sure that a lot of people here are not having a good time, sometimes been beaten up, going to bed without food in this prison.</p>
	<p>[Tsanki] I concurring with him but there's one thing that we should take into account. We grew up in this country and we knew that this country was a police state and it continues to be a police state. Most policemen today, in the</p>



manner in which they are treating our people, even for minor cases, they make them as if they are very big cases and that in itself will never change my attitude towards this building even if it is called something else.

I was taken for thirty days, upstairs and I stood there for twenty-five days, day and night. After twenty-eight days they released me and they kept me in my cell. So you can imagine, if I have to revisit this place it reminds me of those bitter nights that I spent with the police raining blows down on me.

A prison itself is not a healthy place for people to live in. Particularly when you know that you were fighting for a just cause against these people who believed, who were a terrorist. All we needed was to see everyone in this country living as equal.

END OF INTERVIEW

