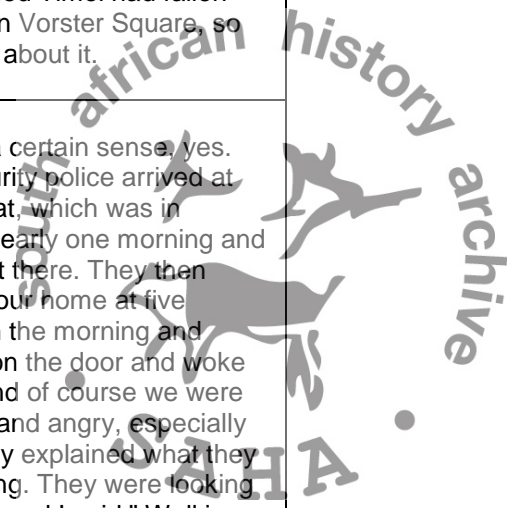


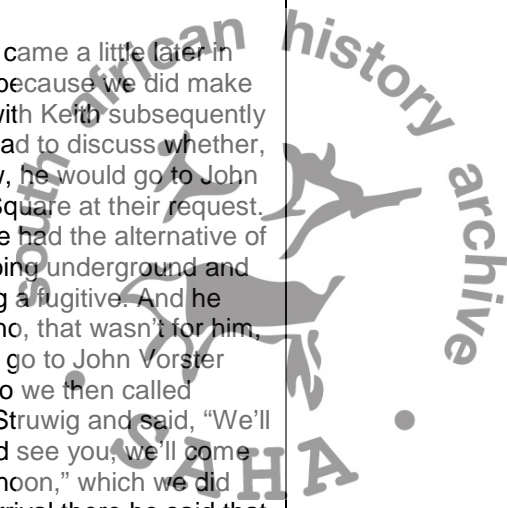
INTERVIEWEE	MAX AND AUDREY COLEMAN
DATE OF INTERVIEW	10 APRIL 2007
PLACE OF INTERVIEW	FOREST TOWN, JOHANNESBURG



Question	Answer
<p>Before, before Keith was detained had you ever been to John Vorster Square itself?</p>	<p>[Max] I'm speaking for myself. No, hadn't been there, but passed by there every day of my life on my way to work going over the M1. But never inside.</p>
<p>What sort of impression did you have of John Vorster Square, based on what you knew about it before your personal experience?</p>	<p>Grim, I would say. It had a certain reputation as being the headquarters of the security police in Johannesburg and with all the stories one heard about that and the fact that people died in detention at John Vorster Square.</p> <p>[Audrey] And Ahmed Timol had fallen from John Vorster Square, so we knew about it.</p>
<p>When Keith was detained, were the terms of his detention explained to you?</p>	<p>[Max] Well, in a certain sense, yes. The security police arrived at Keith's flat, which was in Yeoville, early one morning and he wasn't there. They then came to our home at five o'clock in the morning and banged on the door and woke us up. And of course we were alarmed and angry, especially when they explained what they were doing. They were looking for Keith, and I said, "Well is this the time to come?" and so on. Their reply at that point in time was, "We need Keith to answer questions, when you find him or when you have any contact with him, please tell him that we are looking for him." So they departed certainly not on the best of terms. We were really angry about that and obviously concerned.</p>



<p>Did you know that Keith was being detained as part of a larger group of people?</p>	<p>[Audrey]</p> <p>When the security police left our home, we immediately went to their flat that he was sharing with Clive Van Heerden and when we got there the security police were there and quite a number of them as I remember. They were putting Clive into the car and told us that they were detaining him. So we knew that Clive had also been taken but at that stage they hadn't said that they were detaining Keith. They had merely said they wanted to ask him some questions.</p>
<p>At what stage did they tell you they were detaining him?</p>	<p>[Max]</p> <p>Well that came a little later in the day, because we did make contact with Keith subsequently and we had to discuss whether, you know, he would go to John Vorster Square at their request. I mean he had the alternative of sort of going underground and becoming a fugitive. And he decided no, that wasn't for him, he would go to John Vorster Square so we then called Captain Struwig and said, "We'll come and see you, we'll come this afternoon," which we did and on arrival there he said that he would be detaining Keith and he would be questioned and when we asked him what the conditions of that detention were. He said well as determined by law and there would be no access by lawyers or family members and he would be held until such time as he had answered the questions to their satisfaction. That was more or less the gist of the conditions.</p> <p>[Audrey]</p> <p>They said that they were detaining him under Section 29 and because we were aware of the way the Security Police</p>



	<p>work, he had packed his bag ready to be taken into detention. So they opened the boot and took out the bag and Keith was taken, held in solitary confinement.</p>
<p>So that day you had no idea of how long he was going to be in detention?</p>	<p>[Max] No, it was indeterminate and their finality was more when he had answered all the questions to their satisfaction.</p>
<p>What sort of contacts were you able to make with senior members of the police? If you demanded to see senior police, were you given access to them?</p>	<p>No, certainly not. I mean, there the whole game started. It was like a game, if you like, with the rules made by them and you had to do what you could to try and break through those rules or extend the rules but it was made quite clear that no access would be allowed either by ourselves or by a lawyer and we then heard of other people who were in a similar situation and we started contacting one another to see what we could do about it. We soon learnt that there were things; there were pressures that you could bring to bear upon them. And that was the game that we started.</p> <p>[Audrey] I think that one of the first things that we did as a family, was that we phoned Helen Suzman and told her of Keith's detention and that we wanted access to him. So they, the Security Police said, they gave us an appointment and there told Helen Suzman that I wasn't allowed to go for the visit. I don't know what the reasons were, but Max went up to John Vorster Square, and did see Keith.</p>
<p>Were you still able to get access to him? After that initial meeting that you got with the help of Helen Suzman?</p>	<p>[Max] Well we didn't actually get a meeting at that point, it was a whole process, it took a long time. We demanded to see the Minister of Police at the time and we were successful in getting a very brief meeting, a</p>

very unsatisfactory meeting. But you know the whole thing took a long time to sort of break through that barrier that had been put up. And I would say it was as the result of a lot of publicity and that came about as a result of our standing outside John Vorster Square and two other venues with placards every Thursday and in other words developing ourselves as a pressure group.

[Audrey]

You know at the very beginning; our immediate reaction was to protect our son and to do everything we could for our son. But very quickly there was a group formed and we used to meet at the university. And David Webster was part of the group, he was looking after Barbara Hogan and Cedric De Beer was in detention and there were several other people, Emma Mashini and so we formed a little group. It was like an ad hoc group really just to support our loved ones.

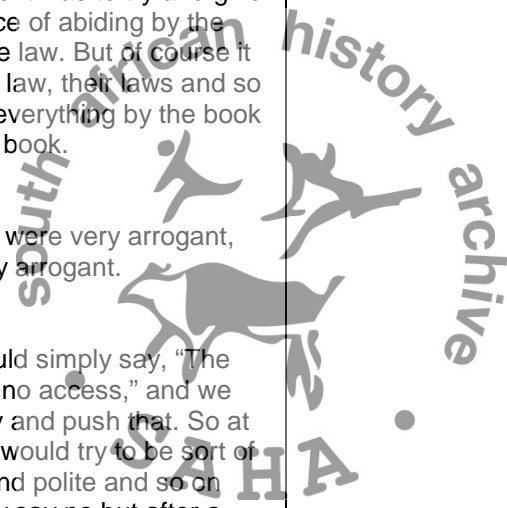
And then slowly the formation of the Detainee Parents' Support Committee occurred as more and more detainees came and we became more organised and started various efforts to publicise, which we did very successfully and it grew enormously.

People heard of us and they started coming and so when we were meeting at the university, people like Race Relations joined the group and various other people and people who had family detained used to come to the meetings. So it slowly grew as a group.

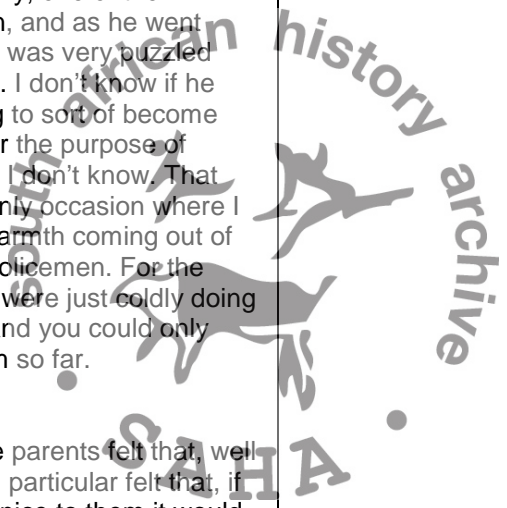
So by the time Keith was released from the

[Max]
Yes, it was indeed in fact not

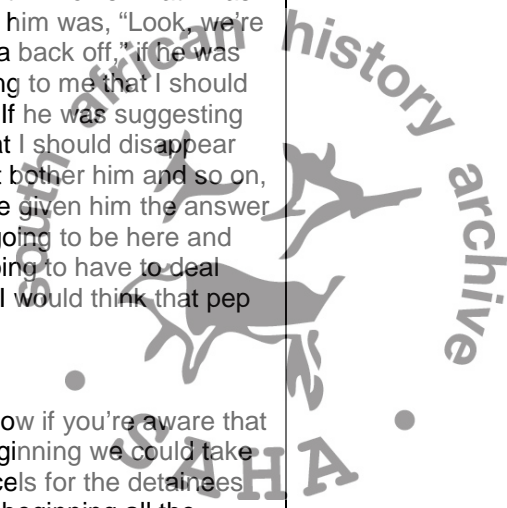
<p>detention, was the Detainees Parents Support Committee already a structured organisation?</p>	<p>only in Johannesburg but also in various other centres because it became apparent quite shortly after those detentions that this was a major swoop by the security police. There were something like a hundred activists who found themselves inside and this was in Cape Town, Durban and so on. So it became an issue that was national rather than local and that was important for that dimension to be reached.</p>
<p>What was your opinion of the way that the Security Police generally responded to you?</p>	<p>Well you see, I think the whole attitude of the Apartheid government was to try and give semblance of abiding by the rule of the law. But of course it was their law, their laws and so they did everything by the book and their book.</p> <p>[Audrey] And they were very arrogant, extremely arrogant.</p> <p>[Max] They would simply say, "The law says no access," and we had to try and push that. So at first they would try to be sort of human and polite and so on and firmly say no but after a while when we kept on pressing them, they became exasperated.</p> <p>At a certain point in time as you may have noted in the diaries, they said, "Well look we won't take your phone calls anymore, we won't speak to you anymore, just address us through the mail and that's all," But we didn't accept that, we just kept on bothering them. I used to go there myself, every morning and if I couldn't get to speak to, say the higher ups in John Vorster Square, I used to speak to the person who was in charge of the little room</p>



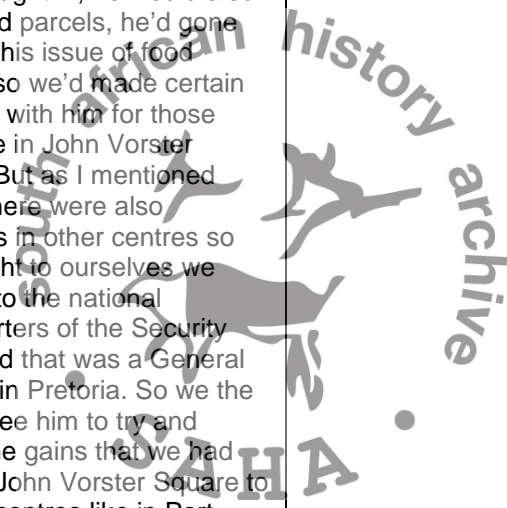
	<p>downstairs and ask who was where and so on and try and engage them in conversation.</p> <p>[Audrey] And also when you were in that room sometimes you'd bump into a detainee, so it was nice to give them some sort of support and say, "Hello, how you doing?" One time I was there I saw Clive, he was being brought in, so it was a form of contact as well.</p>
<p>Did you ever get the feeling that any of these policemen had any kind of genuine empathy for your predicament?</p>	<p>[Max] No, I think just the opposite. I can only think of one occasion where someone greeted me very warmly, one of the policemen, and as he went upstairs. I was very puzzled about this. I don't know if he was trying to sort of become friendly for the purpose of whatever, I don't know. That was the only occasion where I felt any warmth coming out of security policemen. For the rest, they were just coldly doing their job and you could only push them so far.</p> <p>[Audrey] And some parents felt that, well the one in particular felt that, if you were nice to them it would be easier for their child. And he used to go and have coffee with them and try befriend them etc. where as we were very militant. I mean most of us were very militant. And he used to say to us, "You see you going to cause your son to be tortured, by the way you standing up and demanding things and being quite aggressive with them." And we wouldn't back down; we were just very strong about that. And afterwards we discovered that his son had been extremely badly tortured and they hadn't dared put a finger on Keith. They had wanted to, he said at times,</p>



	<p>their hand would come up and they'd be quite threatening. But they never did other than the torture of solitary confinement, which is accepted as torture, they never touched him.</p>
<p>It says in your diary that on the morning of the 3rd of November you gave a guy called Simon Joubert a pep talk?</p>	<p>[Max] Yes I've been trying to think about that and I don't really remember, but I would think that this man who was a person who had a lot of contact with because he was at the goal face as it were because he was down in the little room at the bottom of John Vorster Square, so he would see me at least once a day and the only pep talk I can think of is what I was saying to him was, "Look, we're not gonna back off," if he was suggesting to me that I should back off. If he was suggesting to me that I should disappear and don't bother him and so on, I would've given him the answer that I'm going to be here and you're going to have to deal with me. I would think that pep talk.</p> <p>[Audrey] I don't know if you're aware that at the beginning we could take food parcels for the detainees so at the beginning all the detainees at John Vorster got food parcels and there was a point where they stopped them on the excuse that we might poison our children and then they would be blame for something happening to them. So they refused to allow us to bring food parcels any longer so all detainees were refused food parcels after that.</p>
<p>You said there was a point where the police basically told you that they weren't going to take your telephone calls any longer and refused to deal with you personally anymore.</p>	<p>[Max] I think partly it was exasperation but I think also partly it might have been directions from headquarters, to say, "Look, don't give into these guys, they're just a pressure</p>



<p>Do you think there was a specific reason for this, or was it just a general reaction to your continuous perseverance?</p>	<p>group. Don't wilt under their pressure and just keep them at arms length." I think that's possible.</p>
<p>And then in January you met with General Coetzee?</p>	<p>[Max] We did that for a very specific reason and prior to that we had gone as a delegation to see Muller, he was the head of security in the Witwatersrand area and we had sort of laid down our demands as it were, and we publicized them in the press as well and we got to a certain point with him where he would allow change of clothing to be brought in, he would also allow food parcels, he'd gone back on this issue of food parcels, so we'd made certain headway with him for those who were in John Vorster Square. But as I mentioned earlier, there were also detainees in other centres so we thought to ourselves we must go to the national headquarters of the Security police and that was a General Coetzee in Pretoria. So we the went to see him to try and extend the gains that we had made in John Vorster Square to all other centres like in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town and Durban and so on so that was the reason why we went to see him.</p>
<p>Was that a successful meeting?</p>	<p>I think we had limited success there, because he was a very difficult customer and I think he was also under a lot of pressure not to give way to us. By that time, we were already beginning to be recognised as a pressure group and I don't think the authorities wanted us to make any headway. But again we publicized the minutes of those meetings and so the press knew exactly what he had</p>



	<p>committed himself to, and what he hadn't. We put him on the spot.</p> <p>[Audrey] I think what was important was we didn't do anything without telling the press. So the public knew and also we always informed all the diplomats. So all along the way we were publicizing the conditions and all the relevant facts of what we were doing and why we were doing it.</p> <p>[Max] I think its worthwhile mentioning too that, every Thursday as I mentioned earlier, we used to stand outside John Vorster Square or the magistrates court with placards. First of all; rejecting the idea of detention without trial, second of all; pointing out that our particular son or daughter or whatever it was, had been inside for ten weeks, whatever it was. Simultaneously in Germany in Bonn, the German anti-apartheid movement would stand outside the South African Consul with their placards. So things started assuming not only a national character but also an international character and they didn't like that at all.</p> <p>[Audrey] Black Sash as well as an organization demanding the release of detainees.</p>
<p>You had a meeting with the Minister at the end of 1981.</p>	<p>Correct</p>
<p>And then you asked for another meeting thereafter after having sent him a fax with concerns?</p>	<p>[Max] Well the pre meetings were, you cant really put them together, as the first meeting was on kind of a personal basis, where Audrey and I went to see Minister...</p> <p>[Audrey]</p>



Le Grange

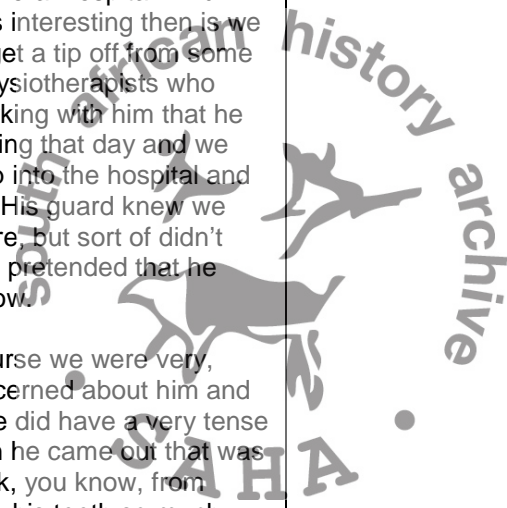
[Max]

Yes; to say we absolutely reject the idea that our son's deprived of his freedom, but the second one that you referring to was in Cape Town and it was a meeting between a delegation of ours and both Le Grange and Coetzee. The Minister of Law and Order and Minister of Justice. We insisted on seeing them simultaneously so that one couldn't say, "Oh well, you're now talking about things that I can't handle, you must go to the Minister of Justice." So that was for the purpose really of firstly rejecting the whole idea of detention without trial as being totally unacceptable and uncivilized and secondly to point out that a lot of torture was taking place which we believed was a deliberate policy within the detention centres and we gave that a lot of publicity too. They of course were angry, they didn't want that kind of publicity and challenged us to prove it, which we proceeded to do and gave them a docket of something like 70 instances of torture in the detention and well thereafter of course relationships were very tense.

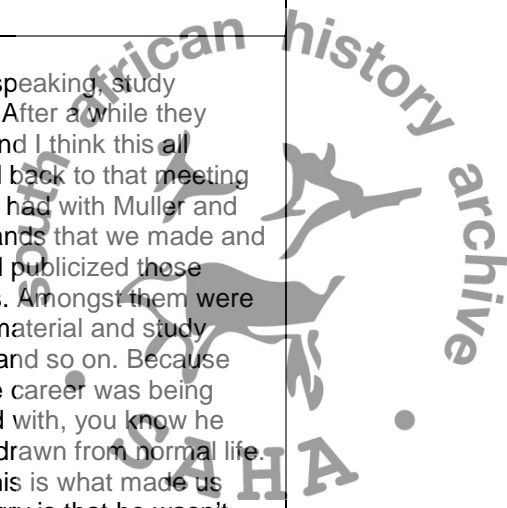
[Audrey]

I think that in all the time that we did our work and the allegations that we made, they never once were able to prove us as having exaggerated or as having not been factual. So that gave a big problem. We never ever gave some of the terrible tortures that happened to some people. We never gave that publicity because they were so awful that we didn't feel that we need do that. We gave the common garden tortures, which were really bad, but weren't as way out as some. So we never exaggerated anything.

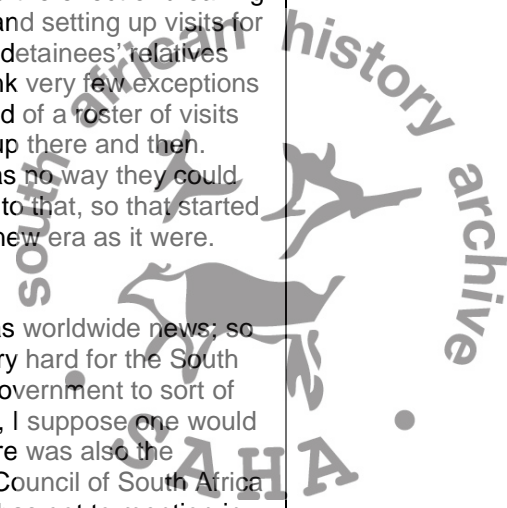
<p>Going back to Keith's detention, what were your biggest concerns during his detention?</p>	<p>[Audrey] Well it was obvious; we were very worried about his health, that they might torture him. Just as a parent you care about your child. In fact what happened was that they discovered that Keith had a very bad back and it was made worse through the tension that he was undergoing there and he was in a lot of pain. They took him to the General hospital and the most Senior, well known, Professor Solomon, who was quite famous, who dealt with Keith and went regularly for treatment at the general hospital. And what was interesting then is we used to get a tip off from some of the physiotherapists who were working with him that he was coming that day and we would nip into the hospital and see him. His guard knew we were there, but sort of didn't react. He pretended that he didn't know.</p> <p>So of course we were very, very concerned about him and in fact, he did have a very tense jaw when he came out that was like a lock, you know, from clenching his teeth so much, because solitary confinement is accepted as torture.</p>
<p>So the hospital is of one way that you managed to maintain a connection to him?</p>	<p>[Max] We did a couple of times.</p>
<p>You would visit and harass security police to try and find out what was going on everyday. Were there any other ways that you managed to let him know that you were out there?</p>	<p>Well...</p> <p>[Audrey] Birthday cards</p> <p>[Max] Yes, my wife for example, was due to have an operation, which she had and we wanted him to sign or send a message on a get well card and this was the</p>



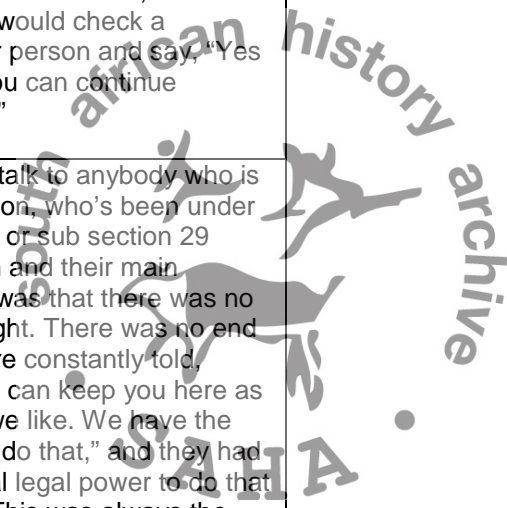
	<p>sort of thing we kept on asking me for.</p> <p>[Audrey] Also, we knew the way the security police that they would probably frighten Keith about my actual health, so we demanded a visit to him. I wanted to see him before I went in for the operation and they had told him that I was very ill and had tried to frighten him about my health but we assured him that it was an operation that was quite normal and that I'd be fine afterwards. So that was an important visit because they would've made hay about that</p>
<p>Besides food, were you able to take any kind of other objects to Keith or was he allowed to access to books or newspapers or anything like that?</p>	<p>[Max] Broadly speaking, study material. After a while they agreed and I think this all stemmed back to that meeting that we'd had with Muller and the demands that we made and how we'd publicized those demands. Amongst them were reading material and study material and so on. Because his whole career was being interfered with, you know he was withdrawn from normal life. I mean this is what made us really angry is that he wasn't guilty of any misdemeanour or crime or anything like that. It seemed very arbitrary that he'd been withdrawn from life and his studies interrupted and so on. So we did our best to get him reading material and study material and whatever else they would allow.</p> <p>[Audrey] At the beginning they wouldn't allow anything of course, not even a bible. He wasn't allowed anything whatsoever so we slowly made gains, not only for him, but for other detainees, they also got study material etc because we broadened our</p>



	<p>platform, we weren't only working for Keith.</p>
<p>Keith was in detention during when Neil Aggett was in detention. Do you remember your reaction to the news Neil's death and how things might've changed the following his death?</p>	<p>[Max] As you can imagine this news was greeted with great shock by all of us who had relatives in detention. We just marched as one body to John Vorster Square and demanded there and then to be admitted to see our relatives and of course I think it was a great shock for the authorities as well because the last thing that they wanted was for this to happen and of course the publicity for them was absolutely negative. That really had the effect of breaking through and setting up visits for all of the detainees, relatives with I think very few exceptions and a kind of a roster of visits was set up there and then. There was no way they could disagree to that, so that started a whole new era as it were.</p> <p>[Audrey] And it was worldwide news; so it was very hard for the South African government to sort of deal with, I suppose one would say. There was also the Medical Council of South Africa that one has got to mention in this because through all the allegations of torture etc, that group of doctors did nothing to help the detainees and they even set up an enquiry which of course led nowhere. And I think also one has got to talk about the district surgeons role because you had district surgeons going in to see detainees and in many cases it was obvious that they were being tortured and they did nothing for the detainees. We really publicized the fact that those sorts of bodies were doing nothing to protect the detainees.</p>



	<p>[Max] There was quite a debate going on within the medical profession at the time as to whether they should condone district surgeons going in to look after detainees because on the one hand, yes they would see that they were in reasonable health and so on but on the other hand they were condoning this whole system of detention in solitary confinement which definitely has a very serious effect upon oneself. And by going along with this, they were saying, "Well that's ok." Even to the extent of in some cases, we heard of these cases, a district surgeon would check a particular person and say, "Yes it's ok, you can continue torturing."</p>
<p>Were concerns about the effects of detention on the mental health of detainees a common concern amongst the parents of detainees or people related to detainees?</p>	<p>You can talk to anybody who is in detention, who's been under section 6 or sub section 29 detention and their main concern was that there was no end in sight. There was no end. They were constantly told, "Look we can keep you here as long as we like. We have the power to do that," and they had the actual legal power to do that as well. This was always the threat to detainees, "We'll keep you here until you talk and you'll never get out, you'll never be seen again." Now that is a tremendous mental pressure.</p>
<p>Were there a lot of detainees who came to you who had symptoms of...</p>	<p>[Max] Post-traumatic stress? BOTH: Absolutely [Audrey] And not only that but you had people who through their torture became epileptic. You had young girls coming out who'd been raped. I saw a young girl who had been raped who had lost her power of speech. She'd gone in as a perfectly normal</p>

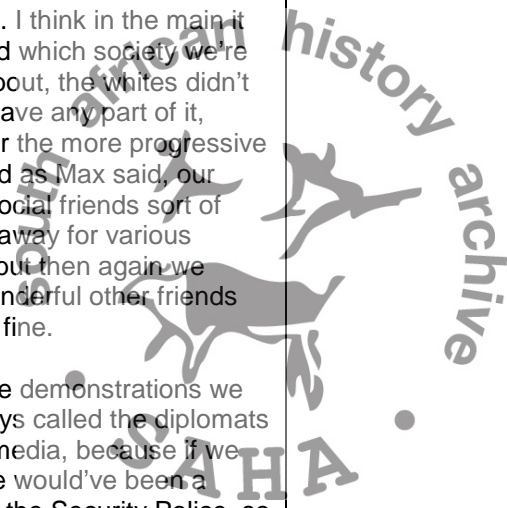


	young girl, she was 14 and she was a total mess. A lot of damage was done to a lot of people.
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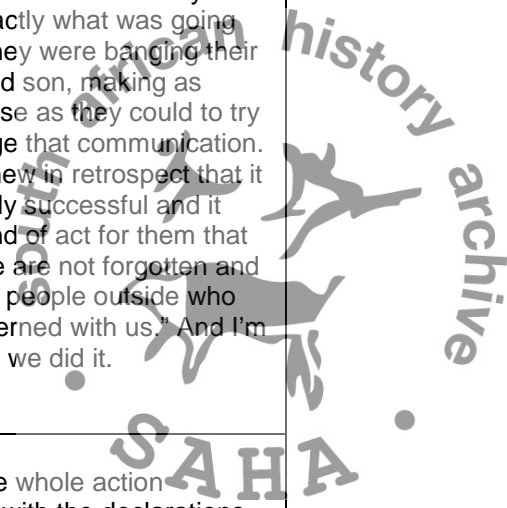


<p>Did the DPSC provide counseling services once they've been released?</p>	<p>[Audrey] When they come out of detention, they come into our office and they were debriefed, we took statements from them, we then automatically sent them to our lawyers' panel. The lawyers, there were progressive lawyers who formed the panel and then there were doctors, there was a doctors panel which they were referred to and then psychologists and they were all voluntary and they did a lot of work with the detainees.</p> <p>What was difficult in many instances was to get the detainees to recognize that they needed help psychologically, that is more difficult than if you were ill. People didn't recognize that psychologically they needed help and even if they did recognize it, they'd go once or twice to the panel and didn't do a continuous follow up which was a pity. But it was all there for them.</p>
<p>Why do you think this was the case?</p>	<p>[Audrey] I think it's very sophisticated understanding a psychological problem, you'll find very educated people who resist going to a psychologist. I think it was a difficult one for people to continue doing. Also it could of been lack of funds, you know having to have the fare to come to and from. The various problems, whether they were working, whether they had the time. So I think there were lots of reasons why they didn't continue with that.</p> <p>[Max] Or they just wanted to put it behind them and go on with their lives.</p>
<p>Going back to the demonstrations that you guys were doing at John</p>	<p>[Max] It depends on which people you are talking about and I think</p>

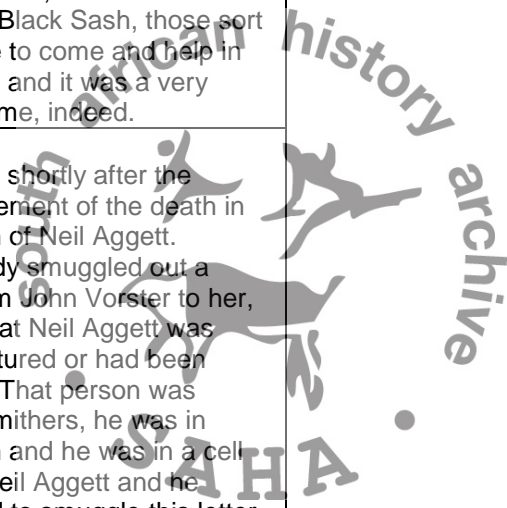
<p>Vorster Square, what was the public response to that?</p>	<p>there were a lot of different reactions. We soon started to realize who our real friends were. Many of our acquaintances sort of disappeared. I think they thought, "Oh hell, we don't want to be seen with these crazies or be tainted by them, let's leave them alone."</p> <p>[Audrey]</p> <p>And they could have been frightened as well. But when we stood in the street, we often got rude remarks passed or else, you know, "thumbs up: and "good for you" and that sort of thing. So there were different reactions. I think in the main it depended which society we're talking about, the whites didn't want to have any part of it, except for the more progressive ones. And as Max said, our historic social friends sort of dropped away for various reasons but then again we made wonderful other friends so it was fine.</p> <p>And in the demonstrations we had always called the diplomats and the media, because if we hadn't we would've been a target for the Security Police, so we always had the diplomats and the media with us and they were there to witness and to support us. Even in the tea parties that we used to give for families, the diplomats and the media were there.</p>
<p>In the diary you mention a Christmas Day drive around John Vorster Square. Can you tell us more about that?</p>	<p>[Max]</p> <p>The streets of Johannesburg were deserted on that day. Everybody else was out enjoying themselves somewhere else I suppose. And we though, "Hell, what we've gotta do here is make contact with the people who are inside, in the cells there." So, we got together a cavalcade of</p>



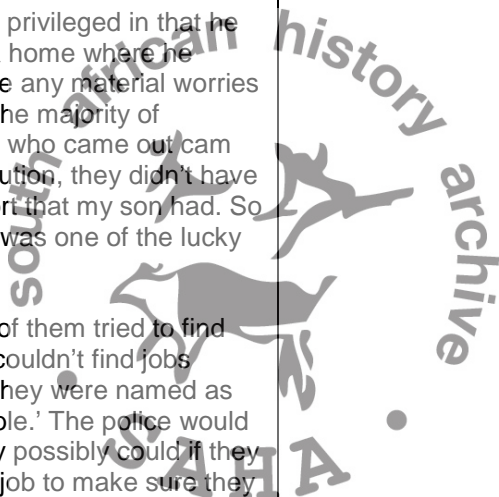
	<p>cars and we circled John Vorster Square. We went around quite a few times, blowing our hooters and making as much noise as possible and hoping that on the inside they would be able to understand what was going on. It was a kind of an act of solidarity with them.</p> <p>We looked up at the windows, there were a couple of windows at certain angles that you could look at, in the hope that we could see some sort of sign but we never did. However afterwards we spoke to a couple of detainees who were inside at the time and they knew exactly what was going on and they were banging their plates and son, making as much noise as they could to try and bridge that communication. So we knew in retrospect that it was highly successful and it was a kind of act for them that said, "We are not forgotten and there are people outside who are concerned with us." And I'm very glad we did it.</p>
<p>How did the everyday program of the DPSC change in the years following Keith's detention?</p>	<p>[Max] I think the whole action changed with the declarations of states of emergency. That was a whole new era. Prior to that there might have been 3/400 detentions a year under security legislation. State of Emergency, within the first two weeks there were 10 000 people detained so the whole thing took on a new aspect and</p> <p>We opened up our advice office in Khotso House, two weeks before the declaration of the State of Emergency, and suddenly we had this huge problem of first of all the recording of all these detentions and how we responded to all these families.</p>



	<p>[Audrey] With the State of Emergency declared, all our workers who came from the townships because the different organizations within the townships seconded people to our office because of the sensitivity of the information we were receiving. So they wanted to know that reliable people were getting that information, as we debriefed detainees.</p> <p>And there I was sitting on my own with all the people who worked in the office underground, they'd all gone underground. So we had to call in volunteers, friends of mine from the Black Sash, those sort of people to come and help in the office and it was a very difficult time, indeed.</p>
<p>What was the bombshell that Helen Suzman dropped in parliament, which you refer to in your diary?</p>	<p>[Max] That was shortly after the announcement of the death in detention of Neil Aggett. Somebody smuggled out a letter from John Vorster to her, saying that Neil Aggett was being tortured or had been tortured. That person was Morris Smithers, he was in detention and he was in a cell next to Neil Aggett and he managed to smuggle this letter out. And, she read this letter out in parliament and of course there was quite a shock that went through the ranks of all the parliamentarians at that time. So that was the bombshell.</p>
<p>So, when was Keith released from detention?</p>	<p>[Max] He was released in April 1982 after 26 weeks of detention.</p>
<p>Were you present at John Vorster when he released?</p>	<p>[Max] We received a phone call. [Audrey] And we went straight to John Vorster. He and quite a few others were released on that day. What surprised us was that he was talking to the security policeman when he</p>



	<p>came out. Quite relaxed and I said to him, "How can you talk to him?" and Keith said, "Well he is a human being who is being misdirected in his ideas and I feel sorry for him."</p>
<p>How did Keith seem to you upon his release? Was there a period of readjustment?</p>	<p>[Audrey] Oh, yes, I think all the detainees when they came out, it's a very difficult period if you're been held alone in a cell and all of a sudden you're out in society and you've gotta mix and be normal. I think it's a very difficult time for them, mentally and socially, you've been through a period of torture and it's very, very hard. I think all the detainees felt that way.</p> <p>Keith was privileged in that he came to a home where he didn't have any material worries whereas the majority of detainees who came out came into destitution, they didn't have the support that my son had. So I think he was one of the lucky ones.</p> <p>So many of them tried to find jobs and couldn't find jobs because they were named as 'undesirable.' The police would do all they possibly could if they did find a job to make sure they didn't get that job. I think Keith was privileged when he came out but he was banned.</p> <p>[Max] As he left he was served with his banning order. It was intended to be for a year and that limited his movement. He couldn't for example go the airport to meet us supposing we'd gone overseas because the airport was outside the magisterial district of Johannesburg and he couldn't go outside of it. He could only go on to a place of education and learning for the sole purpose of continuing his studies.</p>



	<p>[Audrey] He wasn't allowed to play sport for example at university. And not only that the security police made his life a misery they followed him; they harassed him all along the way. He did come home to stay with us and according to the banning order he shouldn't have been able to sit down at the table with the two of us at one time but we nevertheless just refused to recognize that and we had our meals as a family etc. But the banning orders were very severe and many, many people were banned at that stage.</p> <p>[Max] He also had to report to a police station once a week.</p>
Did you ever go back to John Vorster Square after Keith's release?	<p>[Max] Actually, we were wondering about that. But I think we must have gone, because there were still plenty of detainees.</p>
	<p>[Audrey] I'm sure Max did, but I was fully occupied in the office. I was working flat out until the Detainee Parents' Support Committee was closed.</p>
What year was that?	<p>[Audrey] 1990, but then we began another organization, the Peace Action.</p> <p>[Max] But it was banned in February 1988.</p>
The DPSC was banned?	<p>[Both] Yes.</p>
How do you think John Vorster Square as a place featured in your work as DPSC, do you think its reputation got worse in the 80's?	<p>[Max] Yes, because whereas most of the detainees during the State of Emergency were held in large prisons like Diepkloof, it was still a place where interrogation took place. I think the prisons were where people were kept and held away from society but if any interrogation was to take place it was at places like John Vorster Square and it was therefore a very</p>

	<p>foreboding place. At one point in time they put up a whole lot of aluminum cladding. It used to be windows, as you drove up the M1; it used to be windows right up to the 9th or 10th floor. I think it was said at the time that they put up the cladding to resist any rocket attack from the M1. I doubt that a lot of people still remember that.</p>
<p>You went to the renaming ceremony in 1997. What do you feel about John Vorster Square today?</p>	<p>[Max] Well, I would assume that it by then had taken on new purposes, new users. I presume the cells are still there but I don't know if they're used for anything other than...I think it would be wrong to keep anybody in a cell like that: without a window, without chairs.</p>

END OF INTERVIEW

