

A - Aged 19

On the 22nd October I was arrested at Morris Isaacson School by Riot Squad police and members of the Security Police. They were black and white. 76 of us, including teachers, were taken. B B was with me. They took us to Protea. We were kept in a tent, guarded by police. Then they came and indiscriminately selected people for interrogation.

I was taken to one of the rooms. I was asked to name prefects at school and SRC members. First I denied I knew any of them. That was the time they started beating me up. They were three - 2 whites and 1 black. The two whites beat me, not the black one. They were Riot Squad. They hit me on the face with fists. Then they hit me all over the body with a sjambok and a thick belt. After the beating I gave them two names, one of somebody already in detention, the other who had left school. Then they asked me about the meeting at school the day before, October 21st. They asked me who addressed the meeting and what they said. After I told them they took me into another room where there were other students who had already been interrogated. Some had swollen faces and had been beaten up. After a couple of hours they took us to another police station. We were there for about 30 days and then they took us back to Protea. Then they interrogated us again. They released us the same day.

B --- Aged 20

I was with A all this time and was arrested and detained in the same circumstances. On the first day of my detention I was taken for interrogation. There were six white police and one black. They asked me who was Mr. V. I said he was the P.M. of S.A. They said I was talking nonsense: was he no more a pig to me. Then they told me to strip. I was completely naked. Then they took a small black wet sack and put it over my head. All this time I had been told to run on the spot. Then one of them came to twist the sack around my neck and I fell. They were asking me where was Khotso and also other members of the SRC. When I fell I was beaten with something on my back. Later, when the sack was taken off my head, I saw one of them holding a thick white plastic rod. They put the sack over my head and repeated the beatings three times. They wanted me to say that other students had been doing various things. I would not say what they wanted. Then they started pushing and kicking me. One would push me over to another, and then he would kick me back again. They referred to us as communists and tools of Communism. Another white police came in and threw me against a wall and put his hands around my throat. He put on hard pressure. He was asking me about where Tietsie had stayed while he was underground. When I said I didn't know he exerted more pressure. Then, later, I was taken to another police station with A and the others. They let me put my clothes back on when I was taken to join the group who had already been interrogated. My back was bleeding and very painful. I couldn't sleep well at night.

(B showed us his back. It was scarred in six places. Some were about 8 inches long. One mark was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. B showed us his back 54 days after the assault)

About a week later I was interrogated again. They made me put my arms in the air and punched me in the stomach and ribs. I was released about 30 days after I was picked up.

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C - 18 years - Molapo Secondary School.

I was picked up by three Security Police in Zeerust on October 29th. They were in a combi. They arrested me at the home of my aunt who I was visiting. They said I must have done something in Soweto. Another guy was also arrested at my aunt's place. We were taken to the cells on the boundary of Bophuthatswana. It was about 9.30 p.m. Next day, very early, we were taken to the police station in Zeerust. There they questioned us about Tietsie. We denied knowledge. I was then taken to a dark cell and kept there for two days. Then they took me to a small office and questioned me about Tietsie. There was a mirror on the wall. They ordered me to look at it. I said I knew nothing. Then there was one flash of light from the mirror. I fainted with fright. I woke up again in my cell. Two days later two whites and 1 black came to my cell. They asked me about Tietsie and Khotso. I said I knew nothing. Then they gave me electric shocks. They attached something that looked like electric plugs, but without the prongs, to both my wrists. It was very painful. I was crying. I was kept about one week more. They chokod with Protea, Soweto, to see if I was wanted. Then I was taken back to Protea. I was asked to write a statement. They took my fingerprints and my address. They let me go then but told me I must report if I left Soweto. They also told me I would not be allowed to go to Swazi, Lesotho or Botswana.

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D - 18 years - M.I. School

I was arrested on October 22nd, the same day as A and B. I was taken to Protea. I was put in a tent. After taking particulars the police took me for interrogation. Four whites and one black questioned me but gave me no chance to reply. During this they were beating me with their fists and kicking me. They asked me about Tietsie, Khotso and the rest. One of the police said I must strip. I refused and when they saw I was stubborn they all came and beat me. They didn't even question me. They stopped and I was taken to another police station. Two days later they came again and fetched me to Protea. They questioned me about what I had done since the disturbances broke out and tried to force me to say I had been involved in incidents of arson. When I denied it, one of them pointed an F.N. and threatened to shoot me unless I agreed to say what they wanted. Then they put things on my head and gave me shocks. I was screaming and crying. When I got up I was dazed. One of them told me to sit on a chair but there was no chair where he pointed. I had to sit on an imaginary chair. He said I must sit there for two hours,

lashed my back with a rod. They forced me to sign a statement and they took me back to the police station. After 31 days in detention I was released.

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E - 20 years - M.I. School

I was detained on October 22nd with A, B and D and taken to Protea. About 9.30 a.m. I was called for interrogation and taken to an office. In the office was a white policeman and a black man making a statement about his son being shot by police in his yard. I sat down and he went out. Then the policeman taking the statement came up behind me and slapped me around the head. Later I was questioned about the funeral at Avalon, where cars were burned and buildings were stoned. I wasn't at the funeral I tried to explain for about 30 minutes. The policeman told me in Afrikaans I was talking shit and said he would show me. He went out. After a while four riot police came in. They didn't question me. They just beat me and kicked me. They picked me up and dropped me. They beat me for about 10 minutes and then went out again.

(E showed us a scar about the size of a 10 cent piece on his left shin)

Afterwards I realised that they had damaged my left ear, because since then I can't hear properly. Then I was questioned again about the funeral and tried to deny again that I was there. He threatened that I would stay in jail for 180 days. He said I would rot in jail and that I would commit suicide. He showed me a hole and said they could shoot me and put me in the hole. I was scared because I know this is one of the things they do. He took out a pen and said I must start speaking about the funeral. I again denied it and he took me to another office where there were four whites. They again beat me on the body. I was screaming very loud. Another policeman came and said the Minister of Justice was present and they should be careful. So they stopped beating me and said I should squat in a corner. It was about lunchtime and they started to have their lunch. I heard a helicopter going off and they started to call me again. They sat me down on a chair and put a sack over my head. I was tied to the chair by my wrists and ankles. They tied something else around my wrists. They also tied something on my head. I felt as if I was being pricked by needles. It was very painful. It went through my whole body. It was for about 15 minutes. After that the sack was removed. Then they asked me again about the funeral. They threatened to do that thing again for one hour. So I said I was at the funeral, although that was a lie. They started to write down then what I was telling them about the funeral. They then asked me what I have done and I said I haven't done anything. They put back the sack again. They gave me electric shocks for another 15 minutes. After they removed it I told them that I had thrown stones. It was not true but I said so because I was afraid. They wrote it down and said that was what they wanted and I could go. They told me to tell nobody what they have done to me. I was then taken back to the other police station. I stayed there for 32 days.

F - 20 Years - M.I. School

I was arrested on October 22nd with A, B, D and E and held under the same conditions. When I was collected for interrogation one of the policemen cracked a joke and I laughed. He said I was laughing at him and I was taken to an empty room with one chair, and beaten up by five white police. They said to me that I wanted to overthrow the government. They tried to force me to say that I burned the house of Credo Mutwa. But it was not true and I denied it. Then they asked me about the funeral of Mbatha and I denied I was there. They kept on beating me. They asked me about prefects at the school. I supplied them with the names. Then they asked me about the SSRC members at my school. Then they asked me about meetings I had attended at school. It told them I hadn't attended any meetings and then they beat me up. They asked me why I attended school and I said that I had paid my exam fees. Then they beat me up again. I was screaming. They put a newspaper inside my mouth. They then asked me what I wanted to do. I said I wanted to be a doctor. They said "Like Dr. Mahlare" who is in detention. They said he was no good. They also asked me about Khotso. I told them I've never seen Khotso. Then they beat me up. They said that they would give me five minutes to think about it. They came back and asked me the same question. Again I denied it. They beat me up again. They told me to go out. Then one policeman followed and beat me on the back with a stick. From there I was taken to another room to wait for my colleagues. From there I was taken to another police station. The Riot Police came in every half hour during the first night and ordered us to stand up and hold meetings in the cells. We got no sleep. After three days we were taken back to Protea. One Riot police told another that they were taking us for a beating and then they would bring us back. 28 of us, including teachers, were put into a room. They made us stand. They took me to an interrogation room. They told me to take my clothes off. I took them off and then they told me to sit on a chair behind the door. Then they fastened me to the chair by my wrists. Then they put something on my head, like a cap. I didn't see what it was. Then they came with a wet cloth and put it inside my mouth. Then I felt electric shocks going through my body. After five minutes the shocks stopped and they asked me if I would tell them the truth. I said I would tell them the truth. Then the shocks started again. Then it stopped. They asked me about the first demonstration on June 16th. I told them I was at school and that when it started I went home. Then they asked me why I didn't take part in the demo. I told them that I wasn't doing Afrikaans and it had no interest for me. They asked me why I didn't attend meetings. I said I didn't bother to go because the meetings were in the afternoon. They asked me why I didn't wear school uniform when I went to school. I said I didn't because I feared getting shot by the police if I was in uniform. I said I didn't go to school for five days after June 16th because there were no teachers. I told them I didn't go into town or on the march to New Canada. I told them I didn't want to have anything to do with the march. Then they took me back to the other police station