

UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE
DOCUMENTATION CENTRE
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
"VOICES OF RESISTANCE"

INTERVIEWEE: YUSUF HAFFEJEE
INTERVIEWER: CHRISTIAN DE VOS
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PIETERMARITZBURG

CDV: Good afternoon, my name is Christian de Vos from the Human Sciences Research Council. We are speaking today with Yusuf Haffejee, brother of Hoosen Haffejee. On behalf of the Human Sciences Research Council and the Voices of Resistance Project at the University of Durban Westville's Documentation Centre. I want to thank you Yusuf for speaking with us today.

YH: It's a pleasure.

CDV: I am going to begin, or like to begin just asking you some questions about Hoosen and growing up with him, and a little about your family life. You can feel free to be as general or specific as you like.

YH: Certainly. Hoosen grew up in Martizburg. He schooled at the St. Paul's School; thereafter he went to the Marion School and then for his high schooling he went to Woodlands. The school shifted to its new premises in Northdale while he was, I think, in his Standard nine or matric year. When he finished his schooling he went to India to study either Medicine or Dentistry.

CDV: What year did he, was he in India studying?

YH: I think it's from 1966 to 1976.

CDV: Okay, so he was there for a good number of years?

YH: Ya.

CDV: Where in India did he study?

YH: He first did the inter-science at the Bhavan's College in Bombay, and when he completed that he went Nagpur to do Dentistry. The rest of the time he spent at Nagpur. And when he finished he decided to go touring. He travelled overland via Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey right to London, where my aunt is living there. So he spent a holiday with her. Flew back to Bombay, packed up all his things and returned home to South Africa.

CDV: Yes. What led him to study in India?

YH: At that time there was very little opportunity for black people in this country. Especially when it came to medical and dental studies. And because my ancestors came from India, India was the place that we decided on. And he went over and said he would do the applications from there. And that is how he ended up there actually.

CDV: Did he always want to study dentistry or was that something that evolved when he got there?

YH: He never really said, you know, we took it for granted that he is going into some medical studies. I think what happened was that the application, and if I remember correctly what he said was that if he does not get into medical school, then he is going to waste a lot of time. Whereas if he applied for dentistry his chances were far better and he could apply. There was some rule about you can't apply too more than two medical schools. But as a dental school, you could apply to many more. So that is how he actually ended up in dentistry.

CDV: And how did he speak about his experience of studying abroad in India?

YH: He enjoyed his studies in India very much. Spoke very well about the country. I recall once when he came home on holiday. And I haven't been to India at all, and of talking about Nagpur and what's it like and he got the impression from me that I - in fact, felt that India was not as advanced as South Africa. And he started telling me a few things about Nagpur. Said look they manufacture their own jet engines. In Nagpur itself there is factory that produces air-to-air missiles. He described, you know, a lot of India's scientific achievements and I realised that India is quite a modern place, you know not the impression that we had of it.

CDV: Do you think he ever considered staying in India or is he always set on returning to South Africa?

YH: You know, I think if he had to consider living away from South Africa, it would have been India. There are lots of things about the place that they liked you know. He couldn't speak the vernacular when he left from here. He came back, you know, able to speak several languages. Toured extensively during the course of his studies and, only spoke of India in very laudatory terms.

CDV: Just to go back a bit, I wonder if you could paint me a picture of the Haffejee family altogether, how many brothers and sisters and whatever it was?

YH: Okay. At the time that Hoosen left for India, it was my father and my mother, I am the eldest in the family, my brother Ishmail comes after me, then my sister Sara and Hoosen was the baby in the family.

CDV: So there were four siblings altogether?

YH: Yes. My father passed away ten years after Hoosen.
My mother is alive, so we are now three children
and one parent.

CDV: And what did your parents do?

YH: My father was in business. He ran a grocery
business in the front of this premises. When I left
teaching I joined the business and changed the
character of the business. And eventually made it
into a fully-fledged sports shop.

CDV: I see. You said you were the oldest. How much
younger was Hoosen then in age from you?

YH: About ten years I think, ten to twelve.

CDV: Okay. Just want to begin, by talking a little bit
about how when Hoosen returned from India, where
he was practising, or if he was practising, what
hospital he was affiliated with.

YH: When he returned, there were no jobs available. He
did a lot of running around. I know he made several
trips to Pretoria to the Medical and Dental Council.
There is this question of recognition of Indian
Degrees. At that time the system was that the
Medical Council would give partial recognition to
Indian qualified dentists. And after serving a
certain period they would get full registration.
There was a lot of, a large number of students who
had returned and very few jobs. I think during one
of their trips they met one of the directors in the
Department of Health. Apparently this guy wanted
to develop the dental side and created these
openings and it was then that Hoosen got this
internship at King George Hospital in Durban.

CDV: Teacher Hospital. And how long was he at King
George for?

YH: He was working for under a year when he died.

CDV: Under a year, okay. So his from the time of his return to South Africa and the time of his death was about year, is that correct?

YH: About just around eighteen months or so.

CDV: Eighteen months or so, okay. At this time were you yourself you were teaching?

YH: No, I gave up teaching in 1970. He returned in 1976. So, I was already in the business at that time.

CDV: You were working here in Pietermaritzburg. What kind of relationship did you have with your brother Hoosen?

YH: A very good relationship. We carried on well. He was a very outgoing person. Very enquiring mind. Read a lot. And our interests were common in many ways, so I had a very good relationship with him.

CDV: And how did you feel when he made the decision to go to India for almost ten years, did that change?

YH: You know, it was just something which we accepted. We knew that in order to progress some sacrifice was necessary from everybody, and although we missed him when he was gone away, but we knew that there are things that you have to cope with in life. Sometime in the future then he will return a successful person and everything will be nice and rosy again.

CDV: To your knowledge what was, what kind of political consciousness did Hoosen have, prior to his leaving for India?

YH: I don't know much about what he thought politically, but I know that he was pretty active in school. When I say active I mean in his class. You know he was one of the leaders. You know at the time when the school moved from town to Northdale, there was a lot of things happening in

the school which the students didn't like. And there were protests at that time. And I subsequently discovered that he was instrumental in most of those protests.

CDV: When did you realise this?

YH: After he had gone to India, talking to his friends, they mentioned this and I actually didn't know about it.

CDV: How did you feel when you found that he was so actively involved?

YH: At that time I was amused, because I didn't know of him doing anything like that. But, subsequently I realised no that it's part of his character makeup.

CDV: Were other members of your family politically active?

YH: No.

CDV: No, and yourself included?

YH: As a student I used to attend meetings and we had a study group. An APDUSA study group. But I don't think I was very active, it was just part of my education. I became more active after Hoosen's death.

CDV: I see. And when he, Hoosen returned from India, did you talk to him more openly about politics or his political activity?

YH: Ya, we did discuss politics, mainly Indian politics, which I didn't understand much. He would give us an idea of the various political parties in India and what they stood for and how they operated, which ones were the ones that most of the people supported. Locally, South African politics, he didn't speak much. I remember talking to him about the ANC and he was highly critical of the ANC office in London. Saying that it's a known fact that

government agents had actually walked into the office and there was nobody present in the front office. Had walked up to a filing cabinet, opened it and perused documents and left and would come into the office and say something like you know "I am trying to find Christian, you know we were buddies, and I don't know where he is now." And the person there would very happily oblige "oh yes," go to the file, and "Christian is now in a certain place." And apparently the Security Police had got information on many activists in that way. And Hoosen was very critical about that.

CDV: Lack of security?

YH: That the reason why I had talked about the ANC is that my brother-in-law, my late wife's sister's husband was a political refugee from this country, a Dr Randeree. He was in Zambia at that time and we had gone on a visit there, and I must have been telling him about my visit to Zambia and the fact that my brother-in-law was involved with the ANC and Hoosen actually retorted about the ANC office in London.

CDV: Did you, is he affiliating with the ANC, or is that were it mentioned to the ANC?

YH: You know, very little is known about Hoosen's political activities. I have spoken to a lot of his friends, and nobody could give me any information. The ANC locally hasn't claimed him, you know, and oh, of course, they've used his name to garner some votes, at a local election year. An ANC person spoke very highly of Hoosen, knowing that he would get some local support. I know that Mandela has used his name on several occasions, I think in Johannesburg once when he went to some

Middle East country. I don't know whether it was Saudi Arabia or what, he mentioned how Muslims had sacrificed for the liberation of this country and he mentioned I think it was Hoosen and Imam Haroon. But, the ANC has such, has never claimed Hoosen. And, till today we can't say with certainty, you know, what his political affiliations were.

CDV: Okay. We will move up to the, when Hoosen returned to South Africa. When and how did you learn of his death?

YH: Okay, on the morning of the 3rd of August 1977, I had just opened the shop and was busy setting up and cleaning, and, two white males came in and asked to see Mr Haffejee. And, I thought they were looking for me, so I said you know I am. And they asked, you know, do you have a son who's a dentist. And I said no, my brother is a dentist. So then they asked to see my father. Now, my father was not present here, he was in the Transvaal at that time. So, I told them that he is not around, and, one of them just said: "well we came to tell you that your brother is dead. And, he committed suicide." And I was you know, absolutely shocked.

CDV: Okay. Did, when they told you that he had committed suicide, did they explain any of the circumstances at that time?

YH: No. It took me a while to recover. I think what saved me is that the phone rang at that time, and it was a friend, and enquiring whether I was going Durban and if I could fetch some parcels for him. I finished that phone call, and turned to these two people and asked them you know, where this happened. And they said in his police cell. And that's when I think the shock started getting me. I

tried to question them further and they said look they don't know any details and gave me the name of somebody in Durban, and said I could phone them and ask them for particulars. I think the name they gave was the head of Security Police in Durban at that time, a chap called Colonel Hanson.

CDV: And with that did they leave?

YH: I talked to them for a while, you know. And essentially they were just able to repeat those, the same information again. I sent for my uncle and I think I sent for a friend. Then I walked up a few doors to call one of my neighbours, I thought she would be the best person to go and tell my mother. My mother used to run a little fruit shop next door to the shop that I ran. And while talking to these policemen, one of our staff, Angwan, who was with us for many, many years, went and told my mother that there are two policemen in the shop, and they are talking about Hoosen. At one point these people told me that a post mortem is going to be performed and if I want to know anything I must phone Professor Gordon at the Medical School. So, I phoned and I couldn't get hold of Gordon, I spoke to his secretary and I said listen I need to speak to him because I want to have a doctor present at the post-mortem. She took my number down and said she would come back to me. She phoned me back a little later saying that she had traced him, he was at the police mortuary in Gale Street, and that he had conveyed a message that if I want to have a doctor present I should hurry, because he was going to start the post-mortem. I phoned a friend of mine in Durban, a Dr Yusuf Chenia, we go back a long time. And, I told him to please go and be present at the

post mortem, and to get hold of a pathologist. He didn't succeed in getting a pathologist, so he went alone. While I was talking to him, my mother came into the shop and was standing there. So, I had to change to social chit-chat, for I didn't want her to hear what I was saying. After she left I finished off with him and but my neighbour arrived. I went with her next door and she told she broke the news to my mother that Hoosen was dead.

CDV: What was your reaction when you first heard that he had been accused of, that documents had been found plotting revolution and details of attacks in the country?

YH: Okay, that information only came to us, either on, I think on the first or the second day of the inquest. And, we were very surprised. We had received documents from the police you know in the interim, but they didn't give any indication of what else they had. They just gave us the post-mortem results, and a few other things. Photographs which they had taken, and the reference to photocopies of documents showing that he was plotting revolution and all that just was dropped as a bombshell at the inquest.

CDV: Professor Gordon acted as pathologist at the inquest. Is that correct?

YH: Yes, Sir, he was the senior state pathologist at that time.

CDV: He testified about the bruises numbering between 40 and 50 bruises on Hoosen's body, was that evident when they showed you pictures?

YH: Professor Gordon was a terrible disappointment.

CDV: How so?

YH: You know, one of our counsel was the late Advocate Harry Pitman. And he had sent for me one day, and while I was in his office, this is a - look, Hoosen died on the 3rd September, the inquest was somewhere around March. I'm talking of a period in between when we were still trying to get documents from the police. And Harry sent for me and we were discussing something or the other and he wanted me to go down to Durban, and try to pick up some papers. And he thought of something and he picked up the phone and he got hold of Gordon, and he started chatting to him about it. And all of a sudden you know I saw him smiling and you know he seemed very optimistic and he started writing. And when he concluded the call, he said that, you know, Gordon's comment was that this fellow looked like he had been through two rugby matches played on gravel. And that his attitude at the inquest was going to be neutral. At the inquest we actually discovered that Gordon was not neutral. Gordon was actually promoting the evidence of the Security Police. The Security policemen were making these allegations that he received these injuries during struggles in trying to get him into the car and all that. And Gordon actually promoted that idea. So he was a terrible disappointment, certainly not a neutral witness.

CDV: The time period between when you found out about Hoosen's death and when the inquest was actually held there were a number of delays, reading the articles, what was that time period like and where you hopeful about what the inquest would uncover?

YH: It was an excruciating period. You know, the atmosphere at home changed entirely. Till today,

my mother has never recovered from this. You know, she was always a cheerful person. Her personality just changed, you know, and she became very morose and she is that way till today. A lot of my time was spent shuttling between Durban and here. You know the, police were not cooperating. Getting documents for the inquest, you know, should have been routine. But it was a real effort for the attorneys, would phone, they would speak to policemen, they would speak to the senior public prosecutor, they would speak to somebody else, and, you know we started getting documents in dribs and drabs. I know once our attorney Morgan Naidoo sent for me and asked me to go to the magistrate's court in Durban and to see the magistrate, a chap called Trevor Blunden that he would give me certain documents. I went over there and Blunden said no that he could not give me documents, that I must go to see the senior state advocate. I think it was Sanlam building in Smith Street. I went over there and saw a chap called Ben Schonfeld. A pretty nice person, very friendly and he said he needed a revenue stamp and that he would get the documents ready. Apparently the revenue stamp is used to pay for the documents. I went and bought a revenue stamp and returned, and now they had to prepare a receipt in which I signed that I had received the documents. So he wanted my name and ID number and when I gave him my name, you know everything changed. Schonfeld said: "Listen you know, I'm sorry, Mr Haffejee, I didn't realise that you were the deceased's brother. Because you said Mr Blunden sent you I took it for granted that you are an attorney. I can't hand these documents over to

anybody who is not an attorney." So I asked to use the phone and I phoned to Martizburg and they said I should get somebody from Durban. Now my aunt's friend is an attorney, so I phoned Amina, Amina Seedat, she is an attorney in Durban, and she got hold of her brother-in-law, Enver Motala, and made arrangements for him to pick the documents up. So he fetched the documents. He had to go to the court again and eventually I met him there and he gave me the documents and the photographs the police had given him. Like this, it was a lot of running around to get documents.

CDV: How would you describe the inquest itself, the proceedings?

YH: The inquest served only one purpose, and that was to exonerate the Security Police.

CDV: Did you feel that way when it began?

YH: You know I was a little, I was optimistic at that time. You know I thought we still had justice here. But when the inquest started, you know, I realised that there is no such thing. From the outset you know it appeared you could see the direction in which the inquest was moving. And, as I said, look it only served to exonerate the policemen, you know. They needed a forum where they could give their version and an official verdict would be that they were not responsible. And, essentially, that is exactly what the inquest was.

CDV: Looking at an article here that came out right after the inquest and it says -

"The magistrate Mr Blunden..."
who you mentioned, said that -

"...submissions that other injuries found on the dentist's body were due to third degree methods, were pure speculation unsupported by evidence."

How did that make you feel?

YH: You know, I think Blunden as well as the counsel for the police were being very technical you know. Let me give you an example. When our counsel suggested that, you know, that the injuries on Hoosen's body could not have been caused by a struggle lasting an exaggerated one minute trying to force him into a vehicle. Professor Gordon, you know, commented on it like this, that he can't accept a proposition like that. He says you can't present me with a protocol where an actual experiment has been carried out, an experiment like this where somebody, you know, of similar a build to the deceased and policeman forcing a person in and then a thorough examination made and then an assessment, you know. I can't accept that injuries like that type, that those injuries could have been caused at that time, you know. I need a protocol to follow. If you see the injuries you will realise that it's impossible for that sort of injuries to have occurred by forcing a person into a motor vehicle on two occasions. Each one of them lasting an exaggerated one-minute, you know. But the police had explanations for everything. The post- mortem report mentioned extravazation of the scalp, an area of extravazation apparently means an accumulation of blood. The explanation for that was: "when we were trying to force him into a car, he was resisting, he would push back and while we don't particularly remember it happening, but it is quite possible that during that struggle he may have

banged his head against the top of the car." You know. Injuries found on the shoulders: "you know, Du Toit said he drove a Granada and it has got a console in between the seats. And that projects a little into towards the back seat and while trying to push him into the back seat he was struggling and pushing you know. He could have banged against the consul you know, you see." And if you see the injuries, you will find that, you know, it's impossible for that sort of thing to happen in that sort of a struggle. The injuries appear to be in pairs you know, bruises on different parts of the body concentrated around the knees, at the back of the knee, around the elbows. The small of the back and a lot of them were in pairs. Sort of the term Gordon uses crescentic, you know, they were circular, and anybody who saw those photographs you know agreed that no, this is not the explanation. There has to be some other explanation for it.

CDV: What did your family or the counsel that represented you how did they present or account for the injuries that he sustained?

YH: We had a specialist physician, Dr Theo Lorentz, I think a specialist surgeon from Johannesburg who put forward a proposition that those injuries were caused by some blunt force to those parts of the body, you know. And, even his testimony was discounted by the police counsel and by Gordon.

CDV: Pause right there.

YH: Certainly.

END TAPE 1A - RESUMPTION TAPE 1B

CDV: Yusuf, you said you were speaking about when we, I cut you off, about the injuries your brother had

sustained and experts who testified that the injuries and the use of a blunt instrument.

YH: When we had actually got the police photographs the doctor who examined the body here. I will tell you about this.

CDV: Please.

YH: When Dr Motala was present here, and he acted on instructions from us, tried to get a pathologist to examine the body here. He didn't succeed. He couldn't get any specialist to examine the body. Then Harry Pitman was here with him and he asked to use the phone. He phoned home to tell his wife that he is going to be very late. And he told her why. And he mentioned to her that he's battling, you know, he can't find a doctor who is willing to come and examine the body. Now his wife is friendly with Bunty Biggs, and Bunty's husband David, is a specialist orthopaedics. So she phoned him in Edendale Hospital and said: "David these people are having difficulties, please go and help." And so a specialist orthopaedic surgeon came down, you know. And he helped them to examine the body and direct how the photographs should be taken. Subsequently, he tried some experiments, you know, to see if he could replicate the injuries that he found on Hoosen's body. He used dog tissue, skin you know from dogs, and he found that when you use, not the pliers that is used to crimp red seal. When he took that skin and pressed it with this pliers he was able to get something close to the injuries that we saw on the photographs. At the inquest, you know, even that was, Gordon showed his contempt, you know, for this man's experiments, you know. He said: "Well, we don't know what

you did on dog tissue, you know, is what will happen on human tissue." If you, I think Gordon said something like, you know, to Mr Lorentz that, you know, you are really giving a theory that this was blunt force. You can't present actual cases to show that look this is what was tried and this was the result. So the entire inquest was one uphill.

CDV: How long did it last?

YH: It lasted a week.

CDV: You mention Harry Pitman's name, was he who acted on behalf of your family at the inquest?

YH: Ya, there was Dr Cooper from Cape Town. But Harry did most of the work for us here.

CDV: I see. The inquest was held in Durban?

YH: In Durban, yes.

CDV: Okay. Now was your family, hired Dr Cooper entirely to representing you?

YH: Yes.

CDV: Okay. And you also hired the photographer here in these pictures.

YH: Yes, a photographer had taken those pictures here.

CDV: And, who, were the experts that you hired during the course of the inquest that your family paid for? Other people who testified?

YH: Yes, Dr Jonathan Gluckman, who was a pathologist. Now he had collaborated with Gordon in writing a book, you know. No, I'm sorry, it wasn't him, I'm thinking of another of his colleagues, Gordon and Shapiro. A friend of mine a former attorney, Norman Abrahams, subsequently told me that, Shapiro was actually in Maritzburg that day, and he didn't want to tramp on our sensitivities, you know, that's why he didn't come forward and say "look this man is here. It would be nice to get him to

examine the body." You know. But for the, to advise the legal team, Dr Gluckman was appointed. And he advised them on the pathology side.

CDV: Did you feel confident in their presentation that you were paying for?

YH: Look, their presentation was reasonably good. It was an uphill battle for them you know. They had to come into this inquest with a minimum amount of information, you know. And they were actually treading unknown ground, whereas the police counsel had everything.

CDV: What do you think happened to Hoosen when he was being held at the police station? What do think?

YH: I now know for a fact, you know, information supplied by a Security Policeman, you know, which confirmed a lot of our suspicions that he was taken, he was assaulted and he was tortured, you know. Now a Security Policeman called Mohon Deva Gopaul confirmed that firstly Hoosen wasn't arrested, he was abducted. He was taken to Brighton Beach. He was stripped naked, and Taylor started the assault. As time progressed and they found that they were not getting anywhere, the assault became more and more vicious. This carried on from something like 9:30 till midnight, you know. And, subsequently, I had an independent confirmation that there was assault. I was contacted by an insurance agent in Durban. He contacted me via a doctor friend in Durban, formally from Maritzburg. And this friend phoned me and said: "Listen, please come and see me. There is somebody here you should talk to." So I went over to Durban and he called this insurance agent and they introduced me to him, and this fellow said that he

had spoken to a prisoner who said that he saw Hoosen during that period. So he actually took me to Chatsworth Police Station and I met this prisoner, he was a chap called Billy Dorasamy, who apparently was convicted of murder and was serving time. And Dorasamy says that he was cleaning, on cleaning duty at Brighton Beach Police Station at that time. And on two occasions Du Toit had sent for him. Apparently, Hoosen had fainted and a bucket of water had been spilt, so this guy had to mop up the place. And he says he mopped Hoosen's face and revived him. Subsequently, this was repeated it was the second time he says Hoosen was frothing at the mouth. Now, unfortunately I couldn't do anything about this because this guy is a prisoner and he said he wouldn't testify unless he was free, because he was scared for his life. And we couldn't use this in the inquest in any way, you know. But it was sort of, you know, indirect confirmation that what we suspected was actually correct. I will make available to you a copy of Mohon's statement from which you will be able to confirm that Hoosen was badly beaten up and assaulted by Taylor and by Du Toit.

CDV: When you spoke to Gopal, and had an interview with him, and he confirms your suspicions, how did that feel?

YH: Look, I spoke to Gopal about something I got two to three months after I appeared at the Truth Commission. And you know, over the years, I have been sort of anaesthetised to the fact that Hoosen had been assaulted so there is very little that Gopal could tell me that would shock me. The interview with him was useful to me in that it served to

confirm what I already knew. He added, you know, a few things. But, really speaking, there was very little new in it.

CDV: Who, in your family, had to identify Hoosen's body?

YH: I did.

CDV: You did. And when you saw the injuries he had sustained, did you, was that the first occasion you had to see the injuries he had sustained?

YH: Not at the police mortuary. They have this system there. You know, they've got this sort of a glass showcase, which protrudes from the wall here, and the trolley on which the body is lying is pushed into this case from the other side. And this is like a special viewing room, and from the mortuary itself, this trolley is pushed in. So all I saw was Hoosen's face, there was a sheet covering him right up to the neck. And I identified him. I only became aware of the nature of the injuries when we brought his body home. Of course I was aware that there were injuries, because when the post mortem was over I asked Yusuf Chenia, if there were any injuries on the body and he said yes. Well he actually took me to speak to Gordon and I questioned Gordon about that. And I asked Gordon, you know, whether there were any injuries present. And he said yes. And I asked him: "are those injuries in keeping with the manner of death?" Gordon said: "Listen, I've taken tissue samples and I will subject them to examination." He wouldn't answer in any other way.

CDV: When you said he took tissue samples, you showed me in the pictures here, around the knee region, and the back. What was the reason, do you know now the reason for these?

YH: Yes, he wanted to, he actually made slides, cross-sections of that tissue for microscopic examination, to see if he could determine how those, what he called abraded bruises, were caused.

CDV: And, with this also, the examiner you had hired used to determine that the blunt instrument was used?

YH: No that was only a conclusion that he could come to. But they also examined the, we got a copy you know, a duplicate of the pathology slides and Dr Gluckman and Dr Lorenz went over to some laboratory in Durban and used their microscope and examined these things, you know. And there was this difference of opinion, you know. A lot of the things hinged on the time of the time of the injury. Our doctors and counsel said that the injuries were caused, the injuries were approximately ten to twelve hours old. The police counsel stretched that and made provision for the, you know, to say that it's possible that some of those injuries were caused before we picked him up. I'm just trying to think who it was who said when they were talking about the injuries around the knee, somebody from the police side. I don't know whether it was on of their counsel or whether it was Gordon or whether it was Blundon, who said that "look I don't know, you know it's possible he could have got those injuries while doing gardening over the weekend." I think it was Gordon because I can now recall saying that "we don't have a garden. So he couldn't have done gardening."

CDV: When did you last see Hoosen alive before you were told that he was dead?

YH: Sunday evening. He would come home every Friday, spend the weekend and leave Monday morning. I last saw him Sunday evening. He used to leave very early on a Monday morning, so I didn't see him on that Monday morning.

CDV: And, you said earlier that now confirmed that he was abducted by the police, and all the newspaper articles prior to this information was referred to as an arrest. What were you told were the circumstances surrounding his arrest/abduction?

YH: All the police said was that they had arrested him in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act on a suspicion of terrorism. And whenever we tried to pursue a little further they would give you an Act number, you know. That's all we were able to get out of them.

CDV: Why do you think Hoosen had been targeted by the South African police?

YH: A nurse who worked at King George Hospital had been to the Security Police and informed them that Hoosen was engaging in certain activities in his flat. Because of that they had his flat under surveillance. And that's why he was picked up by them.

CDV: Now, I've read in some articles that you had, in addition to the counsel you spoke of earlier, received assistance from Amnesty International. If you could just tell me a little about that and if there were any other groups that he was in contact with.

YH: Yes. We were in contact with Amnesty International.

CDV: Did you contact them or did they contact you?

YH: A friend of ours, Norman Abrahams, was on holiday in London, in December. And he went to Amnesty

International and spoke to the director, I think it was Malcolm Smart. And gave him details, telling him that he would be hearing from us soon. But he briefed him on what it was about. And subsequently I had contacted him, and our attorneys had contacted him. I sent copies of photographs and post mortem report et cetera to Amnesty. And Amnesty got a Danish pathologist, Professor Albrachson. He had given Amnesty a report on those injuries, but they were handicapped, in that, they could only go by the photographs and not you know having actually seen the body, or having seen the slides. But, in retrospect now, you know, I find that their information was absolutely accurate.

CDV: Did you find it helpful?

YH: Ya, we found it helpful. Our counsel used this information, but, as I said, it was an uphill battle.

CDV: Did your family pursue a civil suit in conjunction?

YH: Yes, I think we issued summons against Jimmy Kruger at that time. Don't recall what actually happened about that.

CDV: You don't recall what happened with the civil suit?

YH: I think after the inquest verdict I did get legal opinion, that it wouldn't be easy. So I think, somewhere down the line, I must have let that fall off.

CDV: Now could you have appealed the inquest decision. Did you appeal it?

YH: No I didn't. We're handicapped to a very large extent. In that we had no source of information. So we couldn't go any independent people who were witnesses or who had seen something and used their testimony to take this thing further. There were no witnesses to this thing, you know, and the only

witness was Hoosen himself. And as Blundon said, you know, at the inquest, dead men tell no tales. So I don't know whether you can appeal an inquest. But, I'm, at the moment, considering. I'm looking into the possibility of having the inquest re-opened. In the light of information, which has become available, you know. I now have a signed statement by one of the Security Policemen in which he says that Hoosen was abducted. In which he says Hoosen was assaulted, right. He says by who, it happened in his presence. He also says how the next day when they met in their offices there, they were called in and were told look we have to plan our stories. So they concocted their stories that they are going to present, you know, at the inquest. Each one was given his version, you know, so there is evidence now, this man's evidence which shows us that you know, there was this conspiracy of silence. There was this conspiracy to subvert the cause of justice, you know. And I don't know what possibilities exist, but I'm going to make some enquires and see whether I can take this thing further or not.

CDV: I want to turn away from this for a moment, and talk a little about the effects of Hoosen's death on you and your family. I read an article that your mother submitted to the Natal Witness in 1978 and she writes I'll just read this the last paragraph she says here:

"The Prime Minister has quoted in the Natal Mercury, constantly stating that God will open doors to us so that we can fulfill our destiny. I think the time has arrived for us, the blacks, to pray that God will open a door to protect our destiny from the cruel injustice of the South African

Security Police. I hope our prayers are answered before it's too late for us all. As a grieving mother I cannot forget this terrible ordeal. My heart will always cry for my son."

You said when we were speaking earlier also, that your family was not particularly politically active before Hoosen's death. She writes this article in the newspaper. What kind of changes did Hoosen's death have? First I would like to speak if you could just talk a little bit about your mother and then the family at large.

YH: Look, my mother became a changed person. You know she was, she is no more the easygoing, cheerful person that she was before Hoosen's death. She became very suspicious. She became politically conscious. She became aware of the political processes in the country. She became aware of other people who were dying in detention, who were being arrested and tortured by the police. She would cut these articles, you know, and give them to me, you know. So if, you know, we have to say you know what positive thing came out of Hoosen's death? Is that the whole family became politically conscious. We became more aware of what was happening around us. And now actively identified, you know with the struggle against tyranny and oppression.

CDV: Does your mother still live in Durban today?

YH: No my mother now lives with me, here.

CDV: Here in Pietermaritzburg?

YH: Yes.

CDV: Okay. And what effect did Hoosen's death have on your father? You said he died ten years after?

YH: You know my father was greatly affected by Hoosen's death. But he showed very little. No, I think essentially a brave man, you know, who was able to put on a very brave front. Occasionally, you know, that guard would be lowered and we would see that, you know, Hoosen's death did take a toll on him. You know, my father was not present here when Hoosen died.

CDV: Where was he?

YH: He was in the Transvaal. Two of my neighbours, the late Som Parmesar and the late Ravi Maharaj, you know, they got onto the telephone and actually traced his progress until they actually found him. And they arranged, you know, for him to return when I left Durban. I returned with the hearse that was bringing Hoosen's body. I left my car and I left a friend, Goolam Haffejee to fetch my father. And Goolam fetched him, and my father only asked him how did it happen, nothing else. And nobody had told him anything. When he arrived here, an old family friend was the first one to see him, you know. And, as he got off the car, you know, my father's words to him were, "They killed my son." For quite a while he was very quiet, you know. And wouldn't speak much about it. At the inquest, during one of the breaks, the counsel for the Security Police, senior counsel, Willem Booysen, who is now a judge, came up to my father and condoled. I was standing nearby and I heard him say: "Mr Haffejee, I'm very sorry about your son. I also have children and I know the hurt you must be feeling." My father told him you know something like "you know what your people did." The junior counsel for the police was Jan Combrink,

also a judge now. I got the distinct impression that the - at the inquest, you know, that Combrink was, his attitude was different to Booysen. You know Combrink was a little brash you know, sort of his manner was arrogant. And while we had no contact with them then it was just from their behaviour in court, and out of court when he was talking to policemen. Even the Security Police, you know, during breaks at the inquest, they would stand close by. They would try to come near to hear what we were talking about. The Indian Security Policemen, you know, would come and stand right next to - and would pass remarks, you know. I think like "Ya you know, the guy was a terrorist" and things like that. I can't particularly remember a face, but I won't be surprised if this Mohan Gopal who gave me a statement could have been one of them too. There were a whole group of them. Even Security Police from Maritzburg were present at the inquest, you know. And, subsequently, when a friend was talking to them, you know, they said that no, they were just asked to go and observe and to say, you know, who was attending. So even attending an inquest became you know a hazardous thing.

CDV: We spoke about the legal fees that your family accrued in the course of the inquest. Were there medical bills that also resulted after Hoosen's death, like for health reasons, counselling that members of your family needed?

YH: No. I received help from overseas to cover the legal expenses. There were no medical expenses. All other expenses I paid for. Like for instance those photographs. At that time I paid the photographer for that. I didn't seek any financial

assistance except for the inquest itself to pay for legal representation.

CDV: And did you find after Hoosen died that you had this support of the extended members of your family as well as the community here?

YH: Oh, to a very large extent.

CDV: You did.

YH: My neighbours you know are absolutely wonderful people. I don't know what I would have done without them. You know I mentioned the late Som Parmersar and the late Ravi Maharaj you know. These are neighbours you know and they stood with us irrespective of what, you know. And it is something that my entire family will never ever forget. The community itself you know identified with us, the extended family a lot of support. So much of support from people whom we don't even know, strangers you know. I would get a string of sympathy cards you know from London. And for years that continued.

CDV: How did that feel when you received cards like that?

YH: It felt very nice you know. To know that there are people you know who will stand with you, you know. Who will give you support you know during times of difficulties and purely from the humanitarian aspect you know. They were not motivated by anything else and a very warm feeling. One of the people who gave us a lot of support was the late Peter Kirschhoff. He was the founder of the Pietermaritzburg agency for Christian Social Awareness, an absolutely wonderful person. My association with him grew you know. Because of him contacting us during the, during Hoosen's death

and subsequently I joined the Detainee Support Committee and The Dependence Conference here in Maritzburg. And we would hold activities where, you know we would look after the families of detainees and lend support to prisoners who were appearing in political trials here in Maritzburg.

CDV: As details emerged over the course of time about Hoosen's death. I have the impression that you were the primary person in the family. Your name is the most frequently mentioned in newspaper articles. Is that accurate?

YH: Yes.

CDV: Ya. Was it difficult for you sometimes to relay this information to the other members of your family, particularly your mother and father? Did you feel like you needed to hide certain aspects what might be more difficult to bear?

YH: Yes, you know details of anything that was bizarre or gory relating to assault and torture you know. I never made known.

CDV: I read in an article about the Professional Provident Fund. I understand that was an insurance company who initially would not pay after Hoosen's death because it was ruled a hanging?

YH: Yes they wouldn't pay, and I actually issued summons against them.

CDV: You issued a summons?

YH: Ya. And the matter just lay in abeyance after that. And just after the Truth Commission, or was it before, no a little before, you know just when the changes started coming about in the country. Once again it was my friend Norman Abrahams you know who came to my rescue here. At that time Norman was working for the Legal Resource Centre in

Johannesburg. And he suggested to me he says: "Yusuf look there is counsel available here. Why don't you start this thing again?" And I said "okay let's start the ball rolling." And Norman did a lot of the preliminary work. Now we had to now start finding documents. The attorneys no longer had documents going back 17/18 years. And Norman actually had to source these things and the process started again. And PPS of course came back again and said that they had repudiated the claim. Now, I wanted to pursue this thing further. For instance I was told that Nelson Mandela was going to be the guest of honour at some PPS meeting in Johannesburg, I think at the Carlton Centre you know. And I was actually trying to go down to go and picket there you know, and to warn. I don't know whether Mandela was still President or whether he was retired but to say you know what the meal that you are going to have inside you know was paid with Hoosen's blood. But of course I couldn't go down and then these negotiations with PPS had started and I was advised against doing that because I would jeopardise the negotiations. The short of it is that I expected to get a lot of mileage out of this. PPS I think had some foresight and look you know they are not going to come off well in this thing. And indicated that they were willing to talk. And they, Hoosen was in shortfall R70 000 and they offered to pay double and I turned it down. The negotiations carried on they kept upping the figure to R200 000/R220 000. In the meantime I had got an actuary to calculate the value of this policy. I felt that look I must be given the equivalent of 1977 R70 000, you know and the

actuary actually calculated that PPS would not have let that money lie idle. They would have invested it. And based on the returns that they had got he gave a value of R3.42-million. At that time you know I lost my wife just around that period and I left South Africa, I was working in Botswana. A friend of mine has a furniture factory there and I was working there. And I was called to Johannesburg to attend a meeting. From what I was told PPS requested the meeting to offer a settlement. But at the meeting PPS actually said that no they had the meeting because we wanted it. And I think they offered R280 000 or something, and I said no. And we told them about the actuary's calculation. Although I had sent this up to them, Legal Resources acted for me. We had sent them the actuary's calculation but the fellow said that they don't know anything about it. I had to make duplicates and send it up...

END TAPE 1B - RESUMPTION TAPE 2A

CDV: We are back again.

YH: Right, I was telling you about the negotiations with PPS.

CDV: So you had secured the help of Legal Resources Centre?

YH: Yes, they were acting for me in Johannesburg. Now, you see because I went through a difficult time and I got into financial difficulties. I closed my business here. And I withdrew as the trustee of Hoosen's estate. So my mother became the trustee of the estate. So in the negotiations with the PPS I was only there to lend my mother moral support. I didn't have any locus standi as such because I was no longer the trustee, right. Also, she is the heir,

not me. I think as the mother the insurance policy would go to her, and I actually had no say now. So although I would have preferred my day in court, I had to let the legal people advise my mother. And eventually PPS offered a settlement of R800 000. Now, the attorneys in Maritzburg, Morgan Naidoo & Kader Hassim had a meeting and they discussed this matter in-depth. And they said that Hoosen intended this insurance as some form of support to his parents in the event of his death. And, therefore, they would have to, at some time, decide you know, whether they are going to accept a settlement. Because it served no purpose going to court, which would take, a long time and getting you know a posthumous award of the full value. And, at that time, they advised my mother to accept the R800 000 settlement. I supported their advice entirely. Had I been the trustee at that time, I would have preferred going to court and getting R800 000 value, you know, in court. So PPS were very lucky, you know. They settled for a quarter of the value, current value, of Hoosen's insurance policy.

CDV: Hearing your story that in reading these articles, up until the TRC hearings, that's about a 17/18-year approximately period of time that passed, and I'm just amazed that what a long process it was, that finally brought you to, brought you to the TRC. And if you could tell me what it was that kept you and your family going, in pursuing this matter further. Did you ever feel like you just couldn't deal with it anymore, wanted to let it lie?

YH: Christian, a lot of feelings went through us at that time you know. I'm sure that, you know, at times it

was you know we just felt like giving everything up. But then there was also the need to try and get something positive out of all this grief and misery you know. And one thing, which we became aware of, was that we were not alone in this, you know. There were hundreds of other people who had suffered similar, you know, atrocities to their, to their family. I mean there are parents whose children had disappeared, you know. And they know absolutely nothing, you know. When I tried to compare, you know, our problems to the problems of those people, you know, I think my problems pale into insignificance, you know. What does a mother, how does a mother cope with the fact that her son has disappeared? She doesn't know where he is. She doesn't know whether he is alive. She doesn't know what happened to him. Where did he go you know, what did people do to him? She doesn't know whether he is going to walk in through that door tomorrow or whether twenty-five years from now she is still going to be in that same condition, you know. In comparison you know we got Hoosen's body; his funeral left this house you know, and whatever healing has taken place started the moment his funeral was over. There are these people in this country who haven't had a funeral you know, how do they start healing you know?

CDV: I want to start talking about that in a moment. I am just curious were your members of your family ever threatened because of your continued inquiry into the matter?

YH: Yes, the Security Police harassment is something we got used to. You know the Security Police started driving past here from the day, from the day of

Hoosen's funeral. We would notice cars parked across the road. 'Maritzburg is still a relatively small place and you know who these Security Policemen are, you know. And, you recognise that face, you know, and the man is sitting there across the road observing your house. There was a memorial service for Hoosen, half a dozen cars parked observing who's coming to this memorial service you know. And the Security Policemen sends his daughter inside, no doubt she must have been wearing a wire you know, to record the speeches that people made. I ran a fishing tackle business. A lot of policemen, customers of ours, you know, they would come to the shop you know apparently looking at tackle to buy. In the meantime they were observing. Police tried to run my car off the road, I was driving Hoosen's car, you know. They would interfere with me.

CDV: Did you feel threatened when these things happened or did that become a way of life for you?

YH: No it was irritating you know. I actually lodged a complaint at the Mountain Rise Police Station, when one of them tried to run me, run my car off the road. They made an OB entry and gave me a receipt for it, you know. When I would go trials, you know, they would harass us. We were only there in a supportive role to give the prisoners food, which the church had sent, you know. Yet the guy coming, and this entire back row is empty and I'm the sole occupant, the guy would come and sit right next to me, you know. Because I used to carry a pad you know, now they want to see what I'm writing.

CDV: Did you think of yourself as an activist while you were doing these things, and being harassed?

YH: No, I was just trying to help to contribute my little bit to some people who are in some sort of problem, you know, and I know what it feels like so a friend is badly needed at a time like that.

CDV: In the time to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission both particularly related to Hoosen's case and then some more general questions. Now you did give testimony at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

YH: Yes, I appeared and I testified at the TRC.

CDV: Okay. Did you appear once or several times?

YH: No, once only.

CDV: Okay. What circumstance was that appearance?

YH: Even though the meeting held here in Maritzburg, when they were talking about the TRC. And I went to that meeting and one of the people came up to me and asked me if I was related to Hoosen and established who I was. And they invited me to testify. You know, we had some misgivings about testifying at the TRC.

CDV: What were they?

YH: You know they called this the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. And I found that justice was missing. You know you if it was a justice commission, a justice and reconciliation, I would have been very happy to go there. You can't have justice without having the truth, but it's possible for you to have the truth without having justice. And that's exactly what you know happened in the TRC. At that time the family of the Mxenges'

CDV: Let's just get - [unclear Mr De Vos inclined to speak very softly]

YH: That's Griffiths and Victoria Mxenge. Their family, I think were considering taking court order against the TRC or something. They objected to the TRC. The Ribeirros in the Transvaal, you know. We found it easier to identify with them than with the TRC itself. In the end I did go and testify, because I agreed with two of the things, which you know they wanted.

CDV: Which were?

YH: I heard that these atrocities should be recorded, you know, and I felt that, you know, they should examine these things. Not only up to that year, but going back many years before that, you know. At that for you know posterity these things should be recorded. And so I drew up my statement and I testified at the TRC. And I told them that I had these certain misgivings about coming. One of the things which emerged at that time was that the TRC was going to, their Amnesty committee was going to meet behind closed doors, and I told the Commissioners that you know, I view that with a lot of disquiet. Alex Boraine subsequently said that they had changed that the amnesty process was going to be open. The dealing you know with specifically Hoosen's case, I think the investigation was not properly done.

CDV: The TRC investigation?

YH: Yes.

CDV: In what way?

YH: Look I made a statement. I mean I presented my testimony there. And I think I was responsible for getting Mohan to go the TRC and make a statement.

So they had this information from me and from Mohan, you know. Let's say specifically Mohan, because Mohan's is authoritative. He is one of them and he is now under oath saying what his colleagues did. He told them about the abduction, about the assault and about the torture. He named names. But the investigators only subpoenaed Taylor, and questioned him. At that time, you know, when Hoosen died Taylor was the Lieutenant. His superior was a Colonel Du Toit. And the head was Hanson. Herman Stadler was a Lieutenant Colonel, at that time. Mohan mentioned Du Toit, who was Taylor's superior. He mentioned a name, which I didn't know, some Colonel Coetzee. I still don't know who that person is. The TRC didn't question Du Toit, Taylor's superior. I'm not aware of any efforts by them to find who this Coetzee was and to question him. They were just satisfied that they had subpoenaed Taylor. Taylor denied it and that was it you know. So I think the investigation was not properly done in Hoosen's case.

CDV: What would you have liked them to have done differently?

YH: I would have liked them to have pursued the investigation more vigorously.

CDV: Subpoenaed more people?

YH: Certainly subpoenaed Du Toit, Coetzee and also, you know, two names didn't feature in Hoosen's inquest. They were left out. The role that Joseph Benjamin played is unknown. The role that Vic McPherson played is unknown. In order to get a complete picture I think these people should have been subpoenaed and questioned. Certainly if I had known that Benjamin and McPherson you know,

were involved, I think my counsel during the inquest would have made an effort. But these names were kept out, it was part of that conspiracy of silence that I told you about.

CDV: Did the Truth Commission stay in communication with you, as the investigation was ongoing to Hoosen's death? Did you feel a part of it?

YH: Look they came to me after my testimony and wanted information. I gave them copies of documents. You know, I actually gave them my copy of the inquest transcript, and I never got it back you know, and thereafter, nothing.

CDV: Who else besides Mohan applied for amnesty in [unclear].

YH: Mohan applied for amnesty in Hoosen's matter, he was turned down, because according to the statement that he gave, the TRC felt that this man hasn't done anything, so there is nothing to indemnify there.

CDV: Did Taylor or Benjamin or anyone apply for amnesty?

YH: Nobody else. Taylor and Du Toit applied for amnesty in some other matter, but not in this matter.

CDV: If they had applied for amnesty in Hoosen's death, how would you have felt about it?

YH: I would have opposed it.

CDV: You would have opposed it. And you spoke with Mohan directly, that was the testimony earlier at the interview. How was it to confront and speak directly with the person?

YH: This fellow is a very shifty fellow, and because I was looking for information, you know, I had to tread cautiously. I made sure that, you know, I don't lose my temper, I wasn't aggressive. I went

out of my way to show him that I appreciated the fact that he was talking to me, you know. And when I came back and recorded what he told me you know, I realised that this man has told me very little, that I don't know already, you know. Now all he has done, he has confirmed what I suspected. Okay, he said Hoosen was abducted, that was new information. He named Benjamin and McPherson, that was new. He named Coetzee, that was new. But the actual abduction, the assault you know, the fact that his flat was bugged, all that were things which we had assumed, you know, and we knew those things.

CDV: Would you have wanted to confront other perpetrators in Hoosen's death?

YH: Yes, I'm still trying to get in touch with Benjamin. I spoke to my contact last week and haven't made much progress. Benjamin married the informant.

CDV: The nurse?

YH: Yes, and maybe that is why he is reluctant to talk to me.

CDV: What do you feel like confronting him would offer to you?

YH: First of all, I want to hear their version. No, I won't cross-examine, I want to hear their version of that day you know. From that first second to the time that they left Brighton Beach you know allegedly at midnight. I think I can learn a lot if you know if they can talk honestly about that time. Then there is those crucial four hours, midnight to four a.m. that nobody can say anything about you know. And that was our main stumbling block at the inquest. We don't know anything about those four hours because a lot happened in that four

hours. Those four hours contributed a lot, right, to Hoosen's death. We want to know. The police version is that at midnight they took him to the charge office, charged him, took him to the cell, examined the cell, locked him up and left, went home. The next morning they got a call to say that he's dead. I don't believe that's true. I think there has to be another version.

CDV: Do you think that the weaknesses and the TRC investigation into your brother Hoosen's case are representative of a weakness that the TRC had in investigating similar cases, or is this a stumbling block particular to this investigation?

YH: No, I, that was you know particularly about Hoosen's case. Look they unearthed a lot of things during their investigation, and they certainly were able to solve a lot of the disappearances, or some of the disappearances. Take you know the death of Stompie you know, that mother learnt something about what happened to her son subsequent to her testimony. And they've discovered where bodies had been buried you know. And the families were able to retrieve the remains and have a burial. There was good that came out of it. My reference was purely in Hoosen's matter. Had they gone about Hoosen's investigation like they did in some of those, perhaps they would have unearthed something.

CDV: When you gave your testimony in that day, what were the circumstances, was it a public hearing?

YH: Yes, it was a public hearing.

CDV: Public hearing. And who accompanied you or were you alone?

YH: My whole family was with me.

CDV: Did anyone else speak or were the only one?

YH: No I was the only one who spoke. My youngest son, Bilal accompanied me to give me courage.

CDV: Were you scared about testifying?

YH: No, not scared. You know once again the heart was heavy and I think I needed that moral support.

CDV: When it turned to the question of Reconciliation and Forgiveness, do you think if you did know the truth, and the perpetrators said what you wanted to know, do you think you could forgive them?

YH: I don't know. But if the truth became known, maybe. It would depend on what I heard you know, and how I was able to reconcile to it.

CDV: I read in an article that you spoke to Colonel Taylor, is that correct?

YH: Yes.

CDV: Did you have some conversation with him? And you identified yourself and told him you wanted to write to him and that you needed his address. And you said that he asked you whether you were seeking revenge because the incident happened so long ago. And you told him it happened seventeen long years ago, but to us it was seventeen short years.

YH: Yes, you see I tried to keep track of these people. And, I found that Taylor was no more in Durban. So, I managed to trace him through the Commissioner of Police office in Pretoria. And I actually received a call from them you know. I phoned Durban to try and find, and they asked me for my number. They came back to me. It was this Commissioner's Office in Pretoria and Taylor came onto the line you know and I asked him you know for his address because I wanted to write to him in

connection with Hoosen's death. And then he asked "why now you know, it's you know it's seventeen long years ago." And I told him you know to you it's seventeen long years, to us it's seventeen short years. I said I need to write to you and he wouldn't give me his personal address, that I must write to him care of the Commissioner's Office. I was able to trace Du Toit to Johannesburg. I lost track. There was always this hope that you know sometime or the other I may need to query something, or to pursue something, and therefore I needed to know these peoples whereabouts all the time. When Taylor appeared at the TRC examination, I was there the day before, and I heard that Taylor was appearing the next day, so I actually went down and told them that I would like sit in on Taylor's interrogation. And they told me it was not possible, the TRC regulations prevented me from listening. So I said well ask Taylor if he has any objections. Taylor had changed a lot. He walked right past me and I didn't make him out. Taylor was a thin, tall fellow you know, very much your build in 1977. When I saw him at the TRC this thin man he had put on weight, his face was you know, had become full and I was surprised. Then I showed him a photograph of him in 1977 and I told him you've put on a lot of weight since then you know. He told me I had put on weight you know. And I told him that "look I want to sit in on your testimony." And he said that you know he has to go by the advice of his counsel, his lawyer was there. I think it was an attorney called Wagenaar. And he says you know his attorney had said no. So I asked him to reconsider you know that if they were going to

speaking the truth they should really have no objection to my hearing it. And then Wagenaar wanted to know why is it that I'm asking them and not the TRC. So I told them "that the TRC won't allow me in, but you can you know. I mean you appoint me your clerk. I'll come in there, I won't say a word, I'll listen and I'll leave you know." He was very amused by the suggestion but says "listen I'm sorry I can't agree to that." So, that was a fruitless thing. All I know is that Taylor had denied the allegations the TRC put to him. I can't tell you anything more about that. But, I hope that you know sometime I'll be able to go up to Pretoria. And in terms of the Freedom of Information you know access the information. Go and look at Hoosen's file and see what is it that they asked Taylor and what he told them. I don't know whether, my understanding is that that is now a public document. I don't know whether I will have access to it but I hope to get a chance sometime and see whether I can learn anything more about it.

CDV: Some have argued that the TRC is successful or a positive aspect of the TRC was that it was a victim's- centred process. And do you believe that that applied in your case? Did you feel that you were shut out from important aspects?

YH: No, not in our case. Look for those people who now discovered what had happened to their family members, it was a good thing. To those bodies that you know were recovered and the families were able to give them a burial okay you know there was some healing there. But the main beneficiaries in the TRC were the perpetrators you know. They are the ones who got amnesty. There can be not legal

recourse against any of them today you know, because of this amnesty process. So as far as the perpetrators go it was a worthwhile exercise.

CDV: Some have criticised the TRC saying that the position of reconciliation was high and that the truth that it tried to uncover was not enough truth. How do you respond to that?

YH: I don't think enough truth came out. Not enough truth came out at the TRC. Some reconciliation you know but as I said that I think the main beneficiaries were the perpetrators.

CDV: There has been some, well criticism in the news of late for the ANC's retreat on the issue of reparations and what the recommendations is that the TRC had made for families, what has been doled out thus far is much less. In general the ANC's perceived hostility towards the TRC. I'm interested in how you feel about the retreat and reparations and more generally when, could reparations offer anything to your family in particular?

YH: My mother received a cheque for R2 000 with a letter, a cyclostyled letter from Nelson Mandela and I think that was the standard reparation that most people got. With some mention that when the process is over then the balance of the reparation will be paid. There's no information on what that is likely to be. The government is not talking anything about it. Somebody has started some action against the government representing some of the dependants, trying to force the government to make reparations. I haven't been following it so I don't know what has come of that. But as far as the ANC action the release of those 33 people for instance, I think the government is now

undermining the very process that it initiated. It initiated the TRC and it should accept in total whatever the TRC findings are. Those who got amnesty fine. I as a victim can't do anything I'll accept it. But likewise where amnesty was denied to perpetrators because they did not satisfy all the criteria there is an obligation on the ANC to accept that. Now we have a government releasing those 33. In reality they are telling the TRC that we don't accept your finding. I mean those people who sat on the amnesty committee, there is a judge there, there is attorneys there you know, these are legal people, you know. And they found that the criteria was not satisfied and amnesty was denied. Now for the government to you know reject the TRC's amnesty committee finding and to release these people, I think it's a disgrace.

CDV: Stop there.

END TAPE 2A - RESUMPTION TAPE 2B

CDV: Okay just a few more questions. Do you feel that justice has been done in your brother's case?

YH: No.

CDV: Do you feel that despite that justice hasn't been done you've made peace with his death?

YH: I have made peace with his death, not the manner of his death.

CDV: Your mother was quoted in that piece I read earlier when she says: "after Hoosen's death they said they found him hanging in his cell. But I will never, never believe that my son took his own life." I wonder if, if, do you believe the reports that he hung or strangled himself, or do you believe that at some point he was killed and then it was staged that way?

YH: You know my impression is that as Hoosen's interrogation progressed the Security Police became more and more desperate. You see Hoosen was due to take my aunt from London to dinner the evening before, right, and he didn't pitch up. You see he was picked up on the 2nd, interrogated, died on the 3rd. The evening of the 2nd he was supposed to take my aunt to dinner and he didn't pitch up, so she thought no maybe he was busy. By the next day he would have been missed. And things would have started happening, right? The police know this and as the interrogation carried on I suspect that they became more and more desperate. And possibly, one of the possibilities is that they took his trousers and put it round his neck and you know tried to show them listen you know what, part of the torture talk. And on one occasion they went too far. Now this is something that is irreversible. What subsequently happened was to cover that. Because if you read the inquest report, what the post-mortem report which I am giving you a copy of, you'll find that there were two bands around his neck you know. The leg of the trousers was only one, why the two? You know it's possible that the period I am proposing is what could have taken place.

CDV: When you think about the manner of your brother's death and the inquest that happened and the time it took to reveal some of the truth, how do you feel?

YH: I feel very hurt. You know this, I mean the pursuit of truth shouldn't be such an insurmountable thing. And yet simple truth which we are looking for you know, we only get a little, so much of it is being, it remains unknown to us. What little we have found

out you know, it only serves to spur you on to find the remainder you know.

CDV: How do you see your brother now, how do you think of him?

YH: In a way I feel proud, you know, that he contributed towards the reparation of the country. That he is not alone in that contribution. There are many others like him who have paid you know a similar price, so he is in good company. I also recognise the hurt that I and my family have felt. And this makes me identify with the hurt that other people must have felt. Also you know, I'm not alone in this. I'm in good company. The hurt remains. You know it's like a scar, the wound has healed but the scar is present to remind you of the injury. The hurt will always be there, more so because of the so many unknowns.

CDV: Yusuf, I really appreciate you speaking with us today. Thank you very much. Is there anything else that you would like to say that I haven't asked?

YH: No.

CDV: Okay.

YH: If there is anything I'll contact you.

CDV: Okay. Thank you.

YH: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

