



## AL2933 - The 1981 Detainees Oral History Project

Call Number: AL2933  
Title: The 1981 Detainees Oral History Project  
SubTitle:  
Creator: South African History Archive and Historical Papers  
Origination:  
Inclusive Dates: 2002-2003  
Bulk Dates:  
Extent: 23 audio interviews and 22 transcripts  
Language: English  
Acquisition: Accession number: none  
Access Restrictions: The collection is open for Research  
Use Restrictions: Copyright Restrictions may apply. See SAHA copyright statement for Use Restrictions  
Copyright:  
Abstract:

The South African History Archive (SAHA) and Historical Papers were approached by thirty seven people, who were imprisoned on 22 September 1981 and detained for anything from fourteen days to just under one year, to document and preserve their stories. The interviews were conducted by Michelle Friedman in 2002-2003 with the following interviewees: Cedric de Beer, Hannchen Koornhof, Maurice Smithers, Prema Naidoo, Norman Manoim, Caroline Cullinan, Emma Mashinini, Merle Favis, Pravin Gordhan, Audrey Coleman, Gavin Anderson, Barbara Klugman, Cedric Maysom, Kathy Satchwell, Alan Fine, Monty Narsoo and Joanne Yawitch. A number of the detainees (Rob Adam, Barbara Hogan, Alan Fine, Hannchen Koornhof, Prema Naidoo and Shireesh Nanabhai) went on trial and, in the case of Hogan and Adam, were jailed until the release of political prisoners in 1990. Neil Aggett died while in detention. Whilst other people were detained during this period, the detainees listed here were picked for their links to one another.

### Introduction

The South African History Archive (SAHA) and Historical Papers at University of Witwatersrand were approached by thirty seven people, who were imprisoned on 22 September 1981 and detained for anything from fourteen days to just under one year, to document and preserve their stories. A number of the detainees: Rob Adam, Barbara Hogan, Alan Fine, Hanchen Koornhof, Prema Naidoo and Shireesh Nanabhai went on trial and, in the case of Hogan and Adam, were jailed until the release of political prisoners in 1990. Neil Aggett died while in detention. Whilst other people were detained during this period, the detainees listed here were picked for their links to one another.

These oral testimonies provide an entry point into the incubation period of the mass democratic struggle that grew with the formation of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in 1983. They show how activists worked across racial divisions and how their efforts cut across sectors and categories of struggle.

The interviews were conducted by Michelle Friedman in 2002-2003.

### Notes

During a collections audit conducted by Debora Matthews in 2023, the inventory was updated to include the interview dates and additional information.

22 of the 23 audio interviews were transcribed. It was found that the interview with Kathy Satchwell had not been digitised or transcribed. The transcripts have not been edited and contain numerous spelling errors.



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### Inventory

#### A1: Audio interviews

- A1.1: Cedric De Beer  
[30 September 2002]
- A1.2: Hannchen Koornhof  
[9 October 2002]
- A1.3: Morice Smithers  
[6 November 2002]
- A1.4: Prema Naidoo  
[26 September 2002]
- A1.5: Norman Maniom  
[9 November 2002]
- A1.6: Caroline Cullinan  
[19 September 2002]
- A1.7: Emma Mashinini  
[17 September 2002]
- A1.8: Merle Favis  
[18 September 2002]
- A1.9: Pravin Gordhan  
[22 October 2002]
- A1.10: Audrey Coleman  
[13 November 2002]
- A1.11: Gavin Anderson  
[8 November 2002, 17 January 2003, 11 April 2003]
- A1.12: Barbara Klugman  
[10 January 2003]
- A1.13: Cedric Mayson and Penelope Mayson  
[14 January 2003]
- A1.14: Kathy Satchwell  
*Not digitised.*
- A1.15: Alan Fine  
[16 October 2002]
- A1.16: Monty Narsoo  
[14 October 2002]
- A1.17: Joanne Yawitch  
[28 May 2003]
- A1.18: Barbara Hogan  
[10 August 2003]
- A1.19: Colin Purkey  
[6 August 2002]
- A1.20: Rob Adams  
[31 October 2002, 21 February 2003]

#### A2: Transcripts of interviews

- A2.1: Transcript of the interview with Cedric de Beer  
[30 September 2002]
- A2.2: Transcript of the interview with Hannchen Koornhof



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- [9 October 2002]
- A2.3: Transcript of the interview with Morice Smithers  
[6 November 2002]
- A2.4: Transcript of the interview with Prema Naidoo  
[26 September 2002]
- A2.5: Transcript of the interview with Norman Manoim  
[9 November 2002]
- A2.6: Transcript of the interview with Caroline Cullinan  
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- A2.7: Transcript of the interview with Emma Mashinini  
[17 September 2002]
- A2.8: Transcript of the interview with Merle Favis  
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[10 January 2003]
- A2.13: Transcript of the interview with Cedric and Penelope Mayson  
[14 January 2003]
- A2.14: Transcript of the interview with Kathy Satchwell  
*Not transcribed.*
- A2.15: Transcript of the interview with Alan Fine  
[16 October 2002]
- A2.16: Transcript of the interview with Monty Narsoo  
[14 October 2002]
- A2.17: Transcript of the interview with Joanne Yawitch  
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