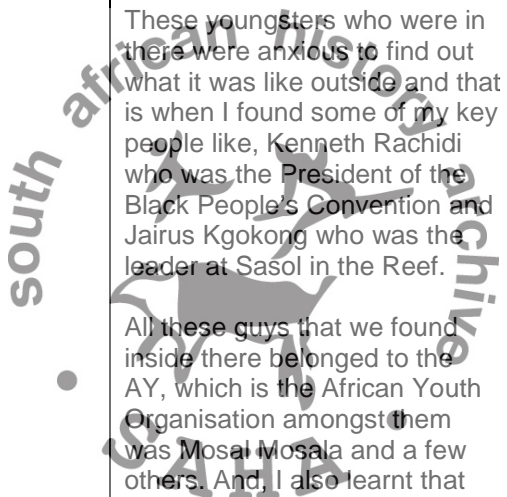


INTERVIEWEE	TOM MONTATA
DATE OF INTERVIEW	
PLACE OF INTERVIEW	JOHN VORSTER SQUARE
BRIEF BACKGROUND	

DVD of JVS VIDEO FILES FIELD TRIP 2 APRIL 07 #3(12)[2ND INTERVIEW]

Time Codes	Question	Answer	Notes
In:12:14:45:00		<p>I was in the UCM at the time, which was the University of Christian Movement, which itself was opposed to the racialisation of Christians.</p> <p>One of our leaders was going away to Austrailia and naturally we were invited to attend, but, whilst the festivities were going on the police dashed in and arrested us for attending a multi-racial event. We later learned that neighbours who claimed that we were making a great deal of noise had informed them. However, they couldn't prove it in court, and we sued them.</p> <p>But, what was terrible was being collected in police vans that had a double decker, whereby one was for the dogs and the other one with us inside. And, taking us to the police station they drove the whole of Johannesburg and all the while they were driving like maniacs, that is, driving in full speed, taking screeching turns without slowing down and applying dead-breaks and all the while had to try and not get hurt.</p>	Background/ arrest
Out:12:17:02:21			
In:12:17:28:00		At that time, the idea of resistance was not as high as it is, because with the banning of the parent organizations; the PAC and ANC, people were	

Out:12:17:58:08		very scared, which you will find in Steve Biko's <i>I write what I like</i> book.	
In:12:18:12:25		By the way the Reverend that we were throwing the party for was Reverend Bessel Moore of the Methodist Church.	
Out:12:18:23:20		We got there on a Friday evening, as usual and most of the people there were people who were arrested for passes.	Arrest
In:12:18:29:15		<p>So, when we were inside there; they wanted to know what we were arrested for and when we told them that we had been arrested for being at a multi-racial party, we became the scorn of the cell, because they said we were dancing with the Missus (white ladies).</p> <p>And, then the following morning the UCM officials requested the late Beyer's Naudee to organize bail, but as our black fate would have it, even that was a racial issue. That is, firstly in prison then you had your blacks and whites put separately, and the same thing when it came to bail applications, that is, they would sort out the whites' applications first, so we were be last.</p>	
Out:12:20:07:06		Then, after June 16...	
In:12:20:31:05	Sir, when you were first arrested, it wasn't political...?	Yes, but it was interpreted, as one, all for having attended a multi-racial party.	
	And, you weren't asked questions about your political involvement and that?	<p>We had already been ... that UCM was a political grouping, so it became a political issue.</p> <p>Then, somehow after June, the 16th I was seen to be the key culprits who had organized the students for what had happened with the riots. However, they couldn't have been too far off, because indeed we were the founding members of the SASIM, which led to Soweto Student Representative Council (SSRC).</p>	Beginning of answer not clear.



		<p>Now, when they took me from SACC and when they took me out of the police van at John Voster, I didn't touch the ground; I was grabbed and hanging in the air I was kicked and punched, which I must say was really quite dramatic. And, the next time I saw myself was when I was thrown into the cell flying.</p> <p>What I found in John Voster Square the youth who had refused to testify on the case against Malebele Masondo and the Lord, which is the case that took Malebele to Robben Island for five years.</p> <p>These youngsters who were in there were anxious to find out what it was like outside and that is when I found some of my key people like, Kenneth Rachidi who was the President of the Black People's Convention and Jairus Kgokong who was the leader at Sasol in the Reef.</p> <p>All these guys that we found inside there belonged to the AY, which is the African Youth Organisation amongst them was Mosal Mosala and a few others. And, I also learnt that they knew what was happening outside, because for example they warned me not to speak, because that cell was bugged.</p>	<p>2nd Arrest</p>
	<p>This second time when you came to at John Voster, were you in solitary confinement?</p>	<p>Yes, I was, which is why I'm saying these guys screamed to warn me not to speak, because that cell was bugged.</p>	
	<p>So, how did you communicate?</p>	<p>Well, what happened was that I knew that when you got detained or get detained is that you had to be a step ahead of the warders and as such had done my geography research about the cell.</p> <p>Knowing the number of my cell, therefore and when I told them about the number of which cell I was in, that is, how they got to</p>	<p>Daily life in JVS/ communication</p>

	<p>warn me, because that cell was apparently kept ready for all the detainees of June the 16th.</p> <p>So, what was strange was them warning me about the bugged cell and still wanting to know what was happening outside, which I eventually started telling them what events were happening outside.</p> <p>I think why I got detained in that cell was that after about three days after the Soweto uprising, a gentleman in Pretoria phoned me from SACC shocked and disgusted at the learners in Atteridgeville. So, I then told him that that wasn't the plan, but rather should it be necessary we were targeting the government departments and the beer halls in town. That is, working for the South African Catholics Bishop's Conference he had called me from those offices, but unfortunately those offices were bugged. Then obviously the moment they had this information of someone with the direction, they knew I was in the forefront and I was a target amongst others.</p> <p>I had been taken for a brief questioning which had beatings, kicking and all sorts, so somehow I had figured out what they wanted us to say and they wanted us to say we were Communist operatives. But when I came back I shouted and told the youth of the African Youth Organisation and the Executives of the Black People's Convention, "Don't worry, guys. Those guys are so agitated themselves that they are going to tell you what they want you to say, so don't worry about what I'm likely or not likely to say."</p> <p>Because, already what they wanted me to say was that it</p>	<p>Torture</p>
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<p>Out:12:33:24:15</p>		<p>was myself, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and Dr Montlana were at the forefront. And, what they were saying was that already Madikizela-Mandela was working with a Communist who was planting letter bombs, and couldn't say I don't know anything about that, so when they removed those tapes and got me to say that...</p> <p>After my first interrogation I requested the services of a district surgeon and once my accompanying security police felt he should step out and give me privacy, and I used the opportunity to tell the District Surgeon about my ill-treatment. Upon coming back they went over what I had said and immediately went to debug the cell I was in, that is, also because they had</p> <p>Also, by that time I had already written about three statements of what they wanted. Fuming they came to remove and transfer me to Mondeor Police Station, and the rest of the interrogation continued from there and would change routes every time they took me to John Voster for interrogation.</p> <p>That time, coincided with the trying of Relimo in Mozambique, and so what the South African police did was to bring in all the vicious Mozambican and Angolan security police in an attempt to intensify their interrogation. And, indeed it was hectic, as they would come in at dead of night.</p>	<p>Daily life in JVS / visits</p> <p>Interrogators</p>
<p>In:12:33:59:10</p>		<p>Viewed as an threat, because they said I was enlightening the other detainees and also they found out that they couldn't make sense out of my statement and that none of the youth had mentioned my name in their statements, therefore I</p>	

		<p>removed from Mondeor Police Station to Number 4, which were the single cells, that is, in order to shut down any contact with any of the other detainees.</p> <p>Sometimes, they would take me to John Voster for about two weeks, which was another brutal interrogation / brutarocation, where I was in a cell adjacent to Masello Watse and PAC's Wellington Chasibane had done his Advance Science course in Oxford, and had no idea</p> <p>Again, I was warned via screams that the cell I was occupying was Chasibane's, who had died in it by being hanged and killed, naturally felt like I was the next one. But, fortunately was removed again back to Number 4.</p>	Death in detention
	You mentioned that you'd be taken from Mondeor to John Voster for interrogation. Can you remember what your interrogators were like?	My answer there is my narration of the South African security police soliciting the Mozambican and Angolan security police that were shot of being murderers who would take us for interrogation in the middle of the night, at a time that they were not supposed to take anyone out and still take us outside of John Voster for brutal interrogation.	SP section
	During all this time, did you ever see a District Magistrate?	No.	
	Any access to anybody outside?	Actually, whilst in Mondeor there is one who would come and ask for complaints, but before you could even see him writing down anything, his back would long be turned against you.	
	Do you remember the cell that you were kept in?	I don't remember except that it was on the second floor.	
	How was it like, was it a small cell or ?	John Voster had fairly big cells, even though of course the sleeping beds were small, but given the fact that you a portion of your sleep area and the other space that you could use for walking around or exercising.	Daily life

12:40:49:07	How did you keep yourself busy?	<p>I kept my mind by reflecting and thinking about what could be happening outside. Also, what we did was write on toilet paper and smuggle the message of warning to certain key people that we felt were at risk and this we would do with the kindness of policeman, such as one Mr. Pilani from Rustenberg.</p> <p>For example the people we needed to warn was Mati Diseko and a few others. And, whether it reached them or not, we would take Mr. Palini's word when he reported the following day to have delivered our message.</p>	Daily life/ communication
		END OF INTERVIEW	

