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TM: Tshepo Moloji

PM: Phinius Maphetho

**Interview with Phinius Maphetho**

TM: Ehh today it's the 29 September 2010 I am with Reverend Maphetho and I am Tshepo Moloi and we are here to do the continuation of the interview of the Tembisa Oral History Project, ehh Pastor thank you very much again for giving us this time to come and talk to you. The last time when we were conducting our interview it ended when we were talking about the nineteen seventy six student uprising and then brother Andrew Maphetho and Thabo Maphetho went to exile, ehh if we can start it from there maybe explain that at home because that time you were already a Pastor coming back from Witbank. Let's start by you explaining were did Thabo and Andrew got the thing to engage in politics, where did they got it or were you talking about it or talking about what was happening in South Africa?

PM: Well ehh at home we were not talking about politic that much as the people who were going to church but we saw that some of the things when we talked about them we would touch the politic issues as children who were still at school and they were being taught maybe to talk certain things which I can answer them and I believe again they had brains that ehh in politics I was involved that is why some other time things of such nature were there as I talked they knew that I was involved and that's why Andrew asked me to find a person who can help them go to Lusaka because he knew that I have a certain idea in things of that nature. Now I would like to say when they were about to go we had a huge problem with the police, because the police in Tembisa they were working with problem of such nature not just the ordinary police because the ordinary police they didn't care because they were doing their police work and the ones that I'm talking about they dealt with problems of the world because they came ehh and they asked for Andrew's photo and only to find that we do have it and we gave it to them ehh and in Thabo's case I dont know what had happened but they asked if we dont have it and from there as I am saying that when they asked for Andrew's and said that they had got inside but if they have their photos they are going to be able to identify them if they see them and then they can arrest them and they said that they are helping me and the story was that they were able to enlarge Andrew's the way they could, now when they started to harass us the way they did because they would come at night and knock on the door and we were suppose to wake up and they will ask to come in and sometimes they will be having a warrant to search the house and then they would come in and search the house ehh because they had the warrant because I've heard some of the verse street of the church and I had turned it to the study and my books were there and they started to search the books ehh I remember the other night ehh we two children of my sister at home and they gad come to visit and they woke them up thinking that it was them and I said no they are not the people you are looking for these one are from the rural areas and they had come to visit, the was they were searching the house they even searched under the bed they were flipping them up and when they were done they left. It's like they were making a way that after a month they would come fetch me for interrogation and they would take me to Tembisa police station because now I was their custom that every time or they will give me a date that they would come fetch me as I'm saying that when they fetched me a white person would be driving and he would come with other black people who were the Tembisa police and doing that kind of work and then I was suppose to sit in the middle of them just to make sure that I just dont jump out of the car and now when we arrive no...when we were driving there was nothing but as soon as we arrive at the police station the police were suppose to stand up with their guns and point them toward me and when we get off the other police will be in front and the others at the back and when we arrive they will ask one of the police to take me to the lieutenant's office. And when I arrive at the lieutenant's office and knock the way the Lieutenant was so respectful of me I dont even know what

was the course of that but he respected me in a way that when we enter he would say to the person who brought me go and get us two cups of tea and they would bring the tea and we would start to talk about the things that we can talk about and he would ask the questions that he would, he didn't fight with me as some of them would be fighting no he would just talk to me in a good way.

TM: Was the Lieutenant a white person?

PM: Yes he was a white person.

TM: Do you still remember his name?

PM: I have a problem of remembering my brain wanted me to ask for the police that I knew that time, I would ask what his name was to me if I could I would love...and that's if he is still alive I would love to visit him and remind him of the old days and how he was treating me, and his way he would ask me about the undergrounds and to identify if these thing were bombs or what and when we are done talking and drinking tea and while we are talking I can be able to tell him where are these things from and what kind of gun is this and all these kind of things and when they are done with me and after we talked ehh he would call them to come fetch me and take me home. I believe that was the safety I was given by God that at least they cannot just say go me because most of the people who were like me they ended up un the streets and didn't make it home because we dont know that the police followed them or what had happen to them but my safety was that they drop me off at the gate and see that I get home safe and then that's when they can go, that was the way they were operating.

TM: Pasto if you can explain because after seventy six already you were...mostly Andrew knew that somehow you are involved in politics, how can you explain your experiences as an activist?

PM: Ehh when we get to the politic issue I was not showing that much as the pastor but I was worried about the conditions we were living under, I remember when I came to know Dr Mandela for the first time it was when I was at Milapo I think it was in nineteen fifty seven or eight and then we were at...I joined ANC, the ANC office it was still very small ehh between Commission street and Mark street whey o are at the Mark street you are in town because Mark street is going up and before you pass John Forster in the middle there are toilet that are very old and now the ANC office was close to Commission street facing the Magistrate court and then now we got Mandela there because he was there or he was the secretary I dont remember correctly, we were joining ANC this small paper and now I also joined there and I was with a friend that I had went with and now...

TM: What do you say when you get there?

PM: When we arrive at the office?

TM: Yes

PM: Well we came only to the office to join and my friend had already joined, I dont know whether it was Mandela who made the joining cards or the one ha was working with that was the way it went because when you get the forms you apply. And it happened when they were destroying the house which was called Masakeng here in South Africa there was this thing which was called Boytagons from Putco people strike for them because of the Penny, Putco wanted people to pay Penny and

people refused saying that they dont have that kind of money and that strike led to Putco buses to stop working all over Durban, Gauteng, Cape Town and so on and on that news it was Mr. Mandela who was representing and talking on our behalf and that meeting was at Alexandra at the Putco office, you see the double story Putco office at Alexandra when you enter? The meeting was there, there were people from side and side and that time the name Soweto was unknown it was still called Side and Service it was given to people because they've been promised it since and then they build shakes, and when we left there ehh sometimes with people's cars ehh I can mention some who were there like ehh Philemon Mathole, he was one of the people who were active I think he was a secretary of the ANC we went with them and some of the people whom I cant call all their names and we were attending the bus meeting at Alexandra, I remember one day Mandela as he was standing up...and the Manager of Putco also stand up and they called him Mr. Frits I remember Mandela saying to him ehh our people dont have that kind of Penny that they can pay extra in the buses but what I would like to tell you is that you as the Manager of the buses at Putco, tell the government to pay that Penny for the people and if the government agrees to pay that Penny we are going to board your buses as he was talking till the end and that did happen that Putco talked to the government to pay for the people...I dont know how they did it so that it can supply all the people who were working at Putco and even in the Hose time lots of things came up that led people to strike and those who were suppose to get hurt or die because it was a war that was being fought but ehh Mandela had talked that way and that was the end of the strike and we were suppose to go back and board the buses again and people from Alexandra were walking to Johannesburg at work and us the we were helped by a train because our train that time it was returning at Dube station as the last station and we were walking from Soweto which was Side and Service and we would go and board the train at Night field that is where we were catching our train even when we come back it was the very same thing. And now as the strike was over...

TM: Sorry to disturb but what the reason for you to live Side and Service and go to Alexandra to attend the meeting?

PM: It was because the meeting...because now it was the meeting and we knew that Mandela will be there representing us so we were supporting the crowd and to see what was happening, and the reason was that the meeting was being held there.

TM: Did people attend these meetings?

PM: Yes people did attend and they came in numbers and now from there when the boycott was over then started the news that the all the people who were the leaders of the ANC when they were collecting it was all over the news papers in the morning that people are arrested and as they are arrested ehh I remember some of them were the late Nkosi Albert Luthuli because he was one of the leaders then it was known that they were arrested and there were lot of them I think they were about hundred and sixty five if it was not fifty six something like that, and then cane their trial at Pretoria. I remember some of them who were there that time there was this other one who was called ehh Tyrone Thiyarente I dont know if he was born in Natal then there was this other father he had a hotel in Johannesburg buy the name of Moretsela, I dont know how he got the right to have a hotel in the middle of Johannesburg and so Mandela, Thambo and the other person who was there was Advocate I dont know what Advocate was he in South Africa and he was called Duma Nokwe he was also in the trial and there were lot of them and some of them were Indians, and now they

attended the trial and there was a place called Sinagag and that was the church of the Judas or something like that and now that trial...that case was attended there as it was there I remember when we got there, there was a bus on our side that was from Masakeng and it came to pick up people from Alexandra because they were standing in the side way because the bus didn't fetch them from their homes but it was suppose to pick them up the ones who were arrested because they were outside and then ehh it will go to Pretoria if I remember correctly.

TM: You are also in that bus?

PM: Yes even us we are with them we were going together and we were singing in the bus "Amabhunu awayeke ukumshaya ngeyitulo" and things like that you know and we were singing on our way to there and when we got there...there was this Indian woman I don't know where she was from and that time it was the time when we were drinking Coffee Kaar where by a person will be selling coffee and bread so there was this thing...when we get there in the morning we start by drinking tea and that woman would give us tea we didn't buy it she was giving us for free it's unfortunate that I don't know her name but if I can search for it some people might remember it, we would be outside singing some were singing even in the street until the court start and then when it's time for the case to start then we would get in and the case of these people will start and there were many of them and now the main thing was that we were supporting it and attending it from Soweto and until it came to an end, and when it did that's when most of them started to skip the country and some skipped the country while the case was still in progress people like Oliver Tambo and some of them who were in that case and now when the case was over they continued with skipping the country, even the one that I'm talking about Duma Nokwe I don't know where he died but it was outside the country and after the case was over...it was the time where people were living PAC and they were also doing their own with the Sharpeville issue and in Cape Town where lot of people passed on in that way of the Dom-Pass and from there...

TM: Just a bit, when people from the ANC were arrested and some skipping the country, that time didn't it come to you as the ANC member to also skip the country?

PM: No that time it didn't come to me that I can also skip the country but I remember some of them were arrested and detained for few days like the first Mr. Ben Kguyapele, George Monare, ehh John Ramila and I don't remember some of the people who were they. I don't want to repeat the one I told you of burning the passes and I was arrested, I'm sure that they suspected that we were the ones who were burning the passes something like that and where do I start yes I said what was I arrested for and went to Polokwane and from there...let me say when ANC was banned because these were the things that caused ANC to be banned and when it was banned we joined Communist Party but just a bit I don't remember attending their meeting because now it was the only one left after the ANC was banned but after a short period of time it was also banned and then when they have banned it...

TM: If I can ask Reverend how did the idea come about for you to join the Communist Party?

PM: It was because the ANC was banned and because ANC was working with the Communist Party as it is today meaning in other words I can say Communist Party is the one leading the ANC as to what is suppose to be done because lots of things were from the Communist party you see in other way it was helping the ANC, so it was the one that was left unbanned I don't know for how long but it

was banned after a short period of time and then when it was banned and there was party that was for Boers which was called the Liberal Party it was the one that was unbanned and it was the only party that the whites could join because all of these other parties were banned you see. And now we joined the Liberal Party.

TM: Was it the same process as the one you were using when you wanted to join the ANC, did you also get the cards?

PM: Yes even there we got the cards after joining the Liberal Party, and there was a man by the name of Allen Pertain he was from Natal I think he was the president of the Liberal Party but when we joined for the first time they choose a black person to be the vice-president and I remember when we went to Cape Town, we started going to Cape Town when I was going to the Liberal Party conference it was close to the House of Parliament somewhere there and now as time passed by and I started being involved in the Liberal Party as I told you that I started wearing their badge and from there...

TM: And as you looked that time, looking at the ANC politics and the ones of the Liberal Party how can you explain them?

PM: Ehh Liberal Party as a party that was dominated by whites you couldn't compare it with the ANC because ANC was more radical the way things were because I remember after they choose this person his name was...I'll remember it after he was chosen as a Vice most of the white people left, I dont know if they went to the National Party or to Progressive Party because it was also there because it was the first time they chose a black person to become an officer you see and then lot of white people left the party, and from there the problems of life because now there are no parties and the activeness of the people that was there, because now people are in prison, some are there and some are doing their own thing and then ehh when Delmas Trial, Lekota there were many of them False and Toman Tlaka and so on and then as they were arrested their Trial was at Delmas and that is why it was called the Delmas Trial also in it I was attending and that time I was here in Tembisa and I would drive from Tembisa in the morning to Delmas and listening to their story and in lunch time we were able to talk to them...

TM: What are you talking about that time?

PM: We are talking about politics although the police are there you can talk about things at home because you cannot dwell deep in politics you know and now I got used to them, now that time I was SACC member but I join SACC when it was still called a Christian Council of South Africa before it changed that name and I was a member of it and as the member on it and I know that time Archbishop Tutu was taken out of the church to become a General Secretary of SACC and then that church took him to Lesotho I dont know if they were chasing him away because they didn't trust him in the work that he was doing and then they took him to Lesotho and after they took him the all to find out that there is no secretary and they took...they asked ehh Biers Noordier to be a temporally secretary as they were still looking for the secretary and Biers Noordier was a person who was very active and he was striped a lot of time and also banned and so on you know and he was on that position and after him if I remember correctly the person who took over was Brutti Franchikane he took over from Biers Noordier and now as a member of the SACC but because that time lot of people

in my church didn't understand me that well when they heard that I was joining these kind of things (laughs)

TM: What were they doing?

PM: They had that mind set that I'm not Pastor you know that in our church we talk about...our main issue is being saved so they said that I'm not saved because if he was he wouldn't be joining these kinds of things of people who don't go to church.

TM: Are they saying these things at church or what?

PM: Well they would speak when they are alone but if we are at church some people wouldn't want to come close to me because I don't look like a Christian because that was the suffering I would get from church, and now when it get to the whites it becomes worse.

TM: Worse how?

PM: Because they see that this person is not a real Christian because there is no Christian who can join these kind of things you see these are the things ehh that were the things they would say so that they cannot be close to me that much you see they judged me in that way and then I remember the other one said why are my children going to...they used to call them missionaries and he said hello Maphetho, today you are resting and I said why resting from what and he said you have somebody that takes care of your children he cloth them, gives them a place to stay and give them food and he was saying these things because they were at...because they had skipped the country you see he tells me these kind of things and to me it he said these kind of things and that I don't have to worry about my kids because somebody is looking after them where they are. And now that became all sort of things...

TM: But Reverend when you got here in Tembisa from Witbank and decide to live here in Tembisa, when you got here in terms of the politics it's in the early seventies how did you find things here at Tembisa.

PM: When I got here at Tembisa in that time things were not good, because I remember when we got here we had meetings that we hold at night with some of the people here in Tembisa and people like Amon Mosane ehh the late Reverend Father Aaron Moloi and Mr. Ngwenya and you know people like these and that time it was called Idamasa for the blacks in South Africa and now and some of the people who were active like ehh Ike Mahlangu who was one of the councillors ehh Graig Malebo and then some of the people who were active in that time.

TM: Which Malebo is that?

PM: Ehh the councillor Graig Malebo.

TM: Ohh...Graig Malebo.

PM: Yes and some like Atli Tliyane and so on I can't mention them all because we would take the whole day just to mention the few.

TM: These meetings that you held at night...

PM: In the evening.

TM: Yes where do you hold them?

PM: We were holding them at Mathole because that time it was dangerous ehh for us to hold them at church because we would hold them at church and sometimes they would come to church except our church because it was allowed and now we were holding them at our place in the was we can arrogate them.

TM: What were you discussing?

PM: It was called the Tembisa Cries and Committee, yes now when we hold these meetings we were suppose to keep the things we were talking about to our selves it was suppose to be our secret as to what we were talking about and we were planning a way forward on how are we going to progress, and here in Tembisa we had barras and the way they were so many I think they were over twelve and these are the barras only here in Tembisa and we were looking that they were suppose to be burned down because there was a problem that these barras...because when the man's come back from work they go to their homes buy to the barras when they get off the train and now they progressed that the fathers can think about what we were seeing, and now they sit there until they close down and when they close down you should know that they suppose to go home and you find that some of them cant even walk straight and the nation that dominated was the Sotho's. I blame these things because they ruin the minds of these people because he gets home late and you find that there is no food or that he gets home late and they belonged to the government and now we are planning things kind of things as to what are we going to do about them because they delay the progress of our people to think about life you see, and then ehh and some of the offices that belonged to the municipality they became a target...the municipal offices here at Tembisa that belonged to the government they were also suppose to be burned down...ehh it was it was that some times we were blaming the rent that the government charged us and it was ruined by the Boers and blacks were just the helpers of these white people and so on meaning that we were destroying the oppression that they had on us in these kind of way that we were doing but these things you had to be very careful that these are the meetings that we hold in secret places these are some of the things that we were doing. I remember the way Tembisa was suffering it was called Tembisa West and the other side was Tembisa East it was the time...I believe at some time when we are in the meeting because we would meet and when we were about to end our meeting you would hear a boy saying I'm going with Reverend and I would say no I'm not driving a cumbi but a car when you are so many what will I say to the police then if it's like that if it's possible how are we going to do it so some at the back seat and one would sleep and some will put their feet on top of him because now it's over load and I'm going to deliver them and when I do that I know where I'm going to start and then ehh I was suppose to park close to the gate you know and then after he had came out and he would go in the front door because it would be late so when he gets in he goes to the dining room and flip the curtain open just to show us that he is safe, because we dont know if these dogs were in the yard and when he gets in they arrested him we dont know.

TM: The police?

PM: Yes the police so he made a sign and after he had done that I would go and deliver the next person and so on and after I go home.



TM: When it starts in the evening when does it end?

PM: Well that will depend because it can end at ten or after ten you see and after that we come back.

TM: Tembisa Crisis committee how did it start the process, do you still remember?

PM: I don't remember when we started but I believe that we just talked and then it started to be called the Tembisa Crisis Committee something like that.

TM: Is it after the seventy six riots?

PM: I think it was after my children had gone, because I said that it was just half year and then they went away so it was after they had left when I remember correctly.

TM: So what are you planning now?

PM: We are planning and seeing what is left and what we can do.

TM: So what was the action?

PM: The action was well we were making bombs out of paraffin with a mixture of soil and so on and when you throw it there it blows up and that was the plan and how are we going to burn them up and what can be done things of that nature.

TM: So do you have people that you assign for that kind of work or what?

PM: Yes some can volunteer that they can start to do it you see and now these are very sensitive things so we must be careful who we pick to do it and you will just hear people saying that something had happen or the municipal office has been burned down and so on.

TM: Out of the twelve that you have mentioned how many of them were brought down?

PM: No all of them were brought down as I'm saying that if they are twelve they are more so all the barras were brought down because they all belonged to the government and even the offices were destroyed, I don't know if the last time I have mentioned that the last office that we couldn't be able to bring down was that one in Endulwini and that was the only office that survived because of the fact that the helicopter was already in the air so we couldn't see.

TM: And then do you have a leadership in the Tembisa Crisis Committee or how did you work?

PM: Yes we do have a leadership that was attending meeting we didn't just talk nor do things and so on.

TM: But you didn't...

PM: Also to report we didn't report the things that had happened because the meetings were successful so that we cannot write again because if you write and they arrest you because of that thing what would you say, because if you can write it and be so unfortunate that they arrest you because of it what will you say because you have wrote it you see now that you are in trouble. It was the way things were done and I taught myself that if there can be some kind of trouble because

sometimes people even if it was a holiday some will say it's a holiday or a stay away and if someone comes with that story then everyone will say it's a stay away, and I will get into my car and go around houses just to see how are things and the people I was working with the respected me very much, and one day I did that in the afternoon they had said it was a stay away and it was not...I think somebody just said it and then everyone believed him and most people didn't go to work and then I started going around Mthambeka and so on and when I arrived there at Umfuyaneni I found...it was late I think it was past seven I found people and there were cars parked there and they had a person with them and they have seen him exiting the taxi and they thought he was from work because they thought it was a stay away, and then when I got there I stopped my car and went to them and said what is the problem and they said this person is from work so we want to burn him ad they like dont you have petrol in your car and I said no it's not a stay away today so if he's from work what is the problem they said no but it's a stay away and I said there is no stay away so people are from work nothing is wrong if he is from work and I go in between them and I grabbed him as I did that trying to separate them and them I took him away from them and said run away.

TM: He ran away?

PM: He ran away and then they said no but...and I said no there is no stay away no one said there was a stay away and they said but...and I said no and that way the survival of that person because if I didn't come they would've burned that person, and then I went to my car and left and from there when they saw my car they respected me even some of them if I ask them what are you doing they will say Pastor Ahhh...and I would say get off and after that I would go and after that I would prepare to go home and I knew that I was safe I'd rather be beaten by people who dont know me but either than that I was safe.

TM: As you are in politics like TCC and then your children are in exile, how are things at home?

PM: Life was not good but I was carrying on doing what I was doing and didn't care, my wife was a very quite person she was from Free State, you know that people from Free State the Boers were killing them and they didn't say a thing you know things like that and when I got home I would park my car and get in the house.

TM: And now you are left with your daughter?

PM: Yes I'm left with my daughter the one who got married in Witbank but I'm left with the children who were used to me and I ended adopting them to come live with us here in the house.

TM: Children from here in Tembisa?

PM: The other one was from Cape and we were from the revival and I meet up with him in the road as I'm escorting people and he was walking alone and I said why you are walking alone and we took him home as our child.

TM: At home are they not asking where their brothers are or were you not discussing politics?

PM: No we are not discussing that much we know that they have left as I talked about the issue of living with these kids, so we knew that they have left and there is nothing that we can do.

TM: And there communication was not there, they didn't communicate with you?

PM: No ever since they left except for Thabo who wrote us a letter saying it was him Thabo Morphett he had changed his surname we dont communicate, we were surprised what they were doing but there was nothing we could do we were just quite there was no way that we can do it and it went that way ehh and when it went that way ehh...

TM: The other thing that you have shown here Pastor is the rent issue that it was another issue that you were discussing as Crisis Committee, can you explain to us how did it happen that you discussed this issue?

PM: The rent because now our municipal was raising rent and our people were not earning that much as the blacks, and they came and told them about the rent issue and then in the office there were Boers only and we were not treated well if we were going to pay so now we were fighting the rent increment I remember the other one I was leading the march and we were from the stadium, there was a stadium here in Tembisa and today they call it Makhulong Stadium but that time it was called Jann Lube we didn't like that name because we dont know who Jann Lube was here in Tembisa and now I was asked to lead the march there so that we can talk with them and we were meeting with the councillors and our first council was Lucas Mothibe but that time it was Morwe I forgot his full names but he was Mr. Morwe he was the councillor and even the councillors were oppressed in doing their work that they were chosen for because we were also fighting with them because we didn't like them because of the way they were doing things. So with that march from Jann Lube and we came here to talk to them in their offices ehh.

TM: Who were marching?

PM: It was us the people of Tembisa mostly those who were involved and the older people who were able to march, so it was us and we were all over the street and then the person who was leading the march was in front as he was in front there was a chain in both side because they were protecting that person so that there can be no person who...because sometimes there police can come and shoot him or he can be arrested so there was a chain that was held by people and he was in the middle you know so.

TM: So you are singing that time?

PM: Yes we are singing along the way and people were all over and even the cars stop they dont move, and then we got there in the office and the Council Morwe came and we tried talking to him and it was not a proper meeting and so on and then ehh when we were done we arte going back to the stadium and we talk what we want to say and then we go.

TM: As you are talking to Mr. Morwe as the people who are leading the march what are you saying to them, what are you talking about?

PM: When we are starting the meeting or what?

TM: When you are meeting you with them.

PM: We are talking about the fact that we dont have the kind of money that they want us to pay, so we wanted them to charge us the way they did before or we are not paying and because they are

being controlled these things were hard sometimes but sometimes here in Tembisa this was the way we were fighting with them and things were better.

TM: Were you overcharged for the rent that time?

PM: It was the money that we were paying during that time but we felt that it was too high and our people couldn't afford it and then we were heading the other one of Tembisa High I don't know what was it for but they had closed the gates and we were not able to enter, I don't know but it was something related to Education and then it ended and sometime later there was another march that one was water related and that the water was too high and sometime people will be singing that they want Motlo and things like that and then it also started at Jann Lube because you had to start in one place as people because now you are too many and when the time has come we would begin the march and even that one I was the one leading it. I don't know what the police had done but it was the issue of the police and how they treated people and when we got there...sometimes they were installing a wire from the top to bottom so that no one can separate us in the middle and we are going to the police station and when we got there because there would be a chosen one that was going to take the memorandum from us and it would be the white person ehh it could be one of the seniors mostly they had to choose their official, and when we got there all to find out that the wire is tight and I have this memorandum and I'm supposed to give him standing like this and I remember when I was handing it over to him we had this other one who was Tim Mabhena I mean Timothy but we use to call him Tim and he said to this Boer you must treat us well because we are going to take over this world he tells him in a board and if you treat us well when we take over we are going to give you a position in our ruling (laughs) and as he was saying all these things the police were all over him so that nothing can happen to him and then we left.

TM: And the issue of unfair treatment of people as they are going to pay in the municipality, as you have said that there were Boers working there.

PM: Yes they were the superiors and the blacks were just the clerks.

TM: How were they treating people?

PM: The Boers?

TM: Yes.

PM: The Boers were not treating us well, let me say if your story is taken to them ehh when you get there you will talk to him very well but he will harass you and do all sort of things either wise he will tell you about other things or you will be arrested all these kind of things and sometimes our people would be translated in the language that they can understand.

TM: So these people who had problem came to TCC or how did you hear of people's problems?

PM: Ehh in most cases we had no people coming to report to us because they don't know where we are meeting so they don't know nothing about the Crisis Committee, because if people can know those who did because now it can leak and end up in the police and they will arrest us saying that we are the ones who are leading people to strike, so it was something that was a secret unless a person see what's happening.

TM: So you as the leaders in the township how do you know of people's problems that they can't pay their rent?

PM: We are also there and we are paying and some of the things we would hear them from the people but we didn't call people to come to our meeting, because if the spys can come and then they will go tell the police that it's Maphetho and so on and then they will collect us all you see. So our meetings were very secretive and we didn't meet with people, unless it was a public issue because our government didn't allow us to have public meetings.

TM: And come a time where they were choosing the councillors, ehh I remember in other places they were building community councillors, town councillors and when it was time to vote and elect here in Tembisa how did you do it, were you agreeing with people?

PM: Well in most cases we were boycotting in choosing these people because we knew that they are whites.

TM: How do you boycott?

PM: We wouldn't go to the voting stations to vote, it was that thing of not going to vote and we would just stay away from it those who want to go will go but we dont support that thing we dont want the council and before they were called the Board.

TM: So you never voted for a councillor?

PM: No I never voted for a councillor because if I vote for a councillor ehh I was refusing sometimes because CN at Mphahlele, CN Bhaduza even the time he was a chief minister if he was coming you know sometimes when they come they will say that the Pastor will open with prayer and I didn't go (laughs)

TM: Ohh he came here in Tembisa?

PM: Yes because he came to speak to his people here in Tembisa I didn't go to these kinds of things, because what I was saying was that I'm not a home land Pastor but a pray for the whole South Africa because the whole of South Africa is mine, I'm not a home land even Watchtower sometimes I didn't pay it. They know that sometimes if I go home and ask for something they will say I dont pay the tax and these are the problems that were there.

TM: So if he comes here what is he addressing?

PM: He was here to address people and sometimes they will say the Pastor must open with Prayer and I would say no.

TM: In these meetings did people come in numbers?

PM: Yes they did come in numbers but I remember he once held a huge meeting and there were lot of people because sometimes it was being held here at Rabasotho and for his safety in the street so that at least the police can be there in public.

TM: And if you hear from people what did he talk about in these meetings?

PM: Well their things of talking about bringing the Pedi's...about the tax that was paid by the people who come from Mphahlele, because if I'm from Mphahlele there has to be a tax that I pay there at Mphahlele for improvement and so on it were things of that nature.

TM: And did you as leaders try to fight that thing of people from the homelands coming to talk to people here?

PM: Well it was not easy but you as your self you can show that you are not interested about these kind of things, but to talk in public it was not safe because you are opposing this person you can talk about them the way you can but not to go there straight and talk because it was not safe because people were arrested and so on I dont know how they did it because I was never detained but the people that I was working with like Mosane and so on they were detained and their detention they were taking them to modderbee yes. There were lot of people who were detained and they go to modderbee for some time and sometimes you will hear that they came back and sometimes you will hear that they fetched them again, I remember Father Mloi he was a close friend to me at some stage I went to go see him in the meeting I got his wife and she said Pastor since from yesterday I didn't see him and I would know that they have taken him you see it were things of that nature, but as things were he was...that time he had kids and he would run to the church saying that he was doing church stuff and no some of them they dont even belong to the church but they stay there and when they arrive they say these people work with the Pastor you see.

TM: Father was in which church?

PM: At Anglican at Sedibeng he was there and we were working like that because we were so brave in the way that we dont think that we can be arrested when we do these kind of things, because here at home these kids were gone now and I was with other children ehh because at one time there came this boy who was from Natal and he knocked and I opened the door and he said he has come to me, and I said so late and he said I have brought this kid and he want Pulukwa and I said did you interview him and they said no we didn't and I said how can you bring a person here without doing that what if this person in the middle of the night wakes up and kill us you were suppose to have screened him and find out if he's telling the truth, what if this person is an informer and they said no Pastor you are going to do it we are living and you will see what you do with him.

TM: Who are they?

PM: The people that I was working with and I said why do you bring him here and they said because you are available and we are going to work tomorrow and we though that you are available and that's the reason we brought him to you because now you cant live a person alone in the house, and I have to screen him before we can go to sleep and I questioned this person why is he here, where is he from, what is the reason for you to live Natal and come to Tembisa you know and I got his involvement he was the one who was going to satisfy me by telling me the truth on the question that I would be asking him and then I screened him.

TM: So when you screen him how do you do it?

PM: The he doesn't write his things in most of the time he just talk yes because I'm afraid to write him because he was going to be in trouble, and then I screened him it was up to you what kind of questions you ask him and are you satisfied is he involved or where he's from was he running away

from the police or what he says, he is involved where he comes from and that is the reason he is running away.

TM: And are you being taught on how to screen a person?

PM: Yes we were taught on how we are suppose to screen him and it's like counselling a person and you will find that he's reason are good on why he ran away from there, because him running away sometimes he came here to hide and sometimes he will tell you that he had come here to skip because now we have Mrs Mandela who was at home.

TM: At Soweto.

PM: Yes at Soweto and at Soweto we were using Methodist Church there was a Pastor by the name of Viren and now he is a Bishop that Viren because now he was not married he was single and he was close to Mandela's house the old ones between Mandela's house and Dudu.

TM: When you walk straight?

PM: Yes now Winnie had made a plan that the children can go there in during the day because there was a church choir that was going to sing at church this is what we were doing and so the police when they pass they dont ask what they want there because they knew that it were children from the church and now they were staying with her and they were able to go to the church from Winnie's house. And as that one came and I was screening him I found that in Ellendale New Castle...he was surprised and got scared when he told me about the Pastor that they were fighting with and I said he is a Pastor and he said you are the Pastor and I said yes and he said if he can come now and find me here what would happen because he is going to kill me because he was carrying a gun.

TM: The Pastor?

PM: Yes and he also runs a business and has a shop, he was a councillor they called him Pastor Khanyile he is a councillor and they are fighting with him and sometimes they come out and look for him and it would be caous, and I said he is our Pastor and he said what and I said yes then when I was done with him no...I wanted to see his ID we were still carrying reference book that time and he had it then I was satisfied and we went to sleep. And I asked him what his aim was and he said I am going I want to skip and become a soldier and I said we will see what we do and then he went to sleep because most of them there knew that I had a connection with Winnie sometimes I will bring you two together to talk, as I was satisfied and I had to see that if he was here he was in a safe place because here at home the police can come at anytime to look for the boys, and I took him to Winnie and when we got there he said Pastor take him there and that's when I took him to church and came back and then when I got here I found that because my wife was quite because if my child was going there he didn't have clothes because you know that sometimes a child run away dressed in an awkward way and you will make a plan that you but him clothe and so on and then I came back. And he came back again because now he knows the church

TM: This boy?

PM: Yes this boy and he said to me Pastor I have come and I said so what's the problem now are things not going alright at Winnie's place and he said no I want a group that when we are there we can be together and I said you are going to fetch them and he said yes the way is there and it's safe, and I said to him because now it's not safe for you to go back there, do you know that the police there want you high and low they are going to arrest you so how are you going to fetch them? And he said I have an aunt that lives in the rural area and I'm going there not in the township I will send messages for them to come to where I am and I said you have to have people that you trust that when you send them there it could not be the wrong person who will tell the police that you are there in the rural area you must be careful and he did in that way and then they boys came because they have found a way in Gauteng and they did go I think they were about six if not seven and they arrived in the evening.

TM: They come to you again?

PM: Yes they come to me because they came to me they knew that I would take them to my wife because they knew that here the police can come at anytime.

TM: Where was your wife living at that time?

PM: My wife was living at Temong we have a four room there and my wife was living in the four room at Temong.

TM: Where were you living that time?

PM: I was in the mission at church there was a mission at church but the people were surprised and asking themselves questions, then ehh I took them there I don't know how many days it took them and they decided to live because he didn't know how long it will take so I asked him will he remember the place and he said I know the place, so they took the bus and they left and I took them to church and left them there and then they went to the train I gave them money to return to where they live and then these people left and when they left I don't know what they did or did they even make it to the training and as I was at my place my wife called and said the boys have left and as they are gone there was a phone call that came in for you and the police want you at Jeppe station because there is a court and the police called and I asked what do they want and she said they didn't say why, and I said I am busy I will come when I'm done and then as soon as I was done I went there and when I arrived there I don't know if they called again or I called them back I can't remember and they called me saying that they have children with them and they are boys and they say that they know you and they are from your place what do you know about these kids? And I said I know about them because they went to town in Johannesburg to do some shopping and they said do you know about them and I said yes and they said they are here and we have arrested them and I asked for what and they said they pushed a person out of the moving train as we were talking I think they have sent someone to go and fetch them, I don't know how they did it but I think there was a person who gave them a warrant or what they did I believe that they should have done that because it was suppose to be a case but I think someone felt pain for them and then they let them out.

TM: How!!!

PM: Yes because when I went there to fetch them they said that they are still there and after a while they were no longer there and in that it was the end of the case, and I said if only it went through I



would be arrested because they would have seen that these are not my children because they are from Natal and where does the Pastor know them from and what do they want from you it was going to be things of that nature.

TM: So you didn't see them again?

PM: I have seen the one who was their leader, one day I think it was about a year I was driving to town using the Andrew Maphetho road and I see this person and I looked at him and said that the way this person stops is the person who knows me why am I living let me go back and see who this person is, because the way he stops me I can tell that this is a person who knows me even if he wants a lift and then I went back and when I got to him he said hello Pastor and I said hello and he said do you know me, you know me and do you still remember me? And I said well I know lot of people I dont like to say to the person I dont know you so I know you but I dont know who I can say you are and he was grown to a big man and his name was Sikhumbuzo and he said you are the one who sent me to the army and I said where about in the army and he said I'm Sikhumbuzo and I said are you Sikhumbuzo and he said yes and I said ohh and I said and so where are you being stationed and he said that he is at Linesia at the base of the soldiers and I said that is good I'm glad to know you, and I think he was asking for a lift I dont know and I said it's fine one day I will come to see you there you see he was the one that I only saw.

TM: How did your connection with Mrs. Winnie Mandela came about?

PM: I dont even remember how it came about, I was with the other Pastor and that Pastor was recruited by me and I said you know I dont know what is it that made me to be so close to Winnie I dont remember what had happen. Well for he to be this close and work with me in this way I dont remember how we started or did I go to her place I dont know what happened, but I'm sure that for us to be this close it was because of...no it was not because of Andrew because when Andrew arrived I was close to Winnie I dont remember quite well how and where we meet.

TM: And you talked about screening that you they have trained you on how to screen people, who was training you?

PM: The ones who were there like if we are in the meetings we talk about things that we want from a person because now we are afraid that this person can be an informer because he will come to you and after that he would go to report to the police so we were scared of thing like these, so you had to be very careful because an informer can pretend to be a comrade and you will take him and only to find that he wants the information and after that he will go to the police to tell them what has been said so we had to screen a person so that we can be satisfied.

TM: But as you are talking about people because in that time people are becoming the informers and the thing is that they can arrest you, the TCC group like Mr. Moloji, Mosane and Mahlangu how did you meet, how did it came about that you meet and talked about very sensitive things like to plan and so on?

PM: I would never know but Dr. Thindiza and Ali...Dr. Thindiza said even before we knew that he was going to be a doctor one day ehh he was at Assembles of God church, there was a training to train teachers and it was the national thing of South Africa and these whites came to give the training here at church so that even the other churches can know so that even the ones who want to train

for Sunday school and now even Dr. Thindiza had also come to train and as he came for the training ehh I remember the people who were in charge of this training came and it was in the house not at church because now these children dont know and they said that I'm not the Pastor and I saw that these are not from here they came here to church for the training and they talked and then they found out that they are here for training. So we started I dont know what was it that we were discussing but it was at home I'm not sure what we were discussing or I'm sure that it was the issue of Christianity and here in Tembisa there was an organisation that was called ehh Tembisa Career Centre, at Tembisa Career Centre we were the committee with Dr. Thindiza and he was a chair person and the both of we were the member of the trustees and we were talking...there was...we were given a centre that belonged to Mr. Mahlangu who had a double story in the business and he had given us a hall and we were working there to help children who were going to do their metric so that they can go there to get counselling, we had some of them there two woman and the one was Pat Maluka and he was involved in the rent issue then they were counselling those who were naughty and what kind of subject they were doing and then they would advice him on what he want to do as he carry on with going to school and they try to...if the subject that he was doing do not fit the field he want to be in then they would advice him what kind of subjects to take things like that. So we worked together with Dr. Thindiza we were working together as counsellors and some of the teachers had joined us but as time went by we didn't see them anymore but we continued with that kind of work, for years we were working with that kind of things we would hold meetings in the evening and then they would report to the ones who are working for the stuff as to what they are doing and what is going to be done and so on and sometimes we had a way, I remember one time they said we must raise funds so that we can be paid and I said as I am a teacher and Dr. Thindiza was a doctor that time now and I said I dont have money but what I can do I can raise funds so that I can have a report and it happened that way and I went to the shops to raise the funds and I played my part and reported back to them, I'm sure I have this little gift that God gave me that I can be able to raise funds if you can see the church that we have built and it was build by one person whom I raised the money from I'm sure he spent lots of thousands and so I have the gift of such nature, even at school while I was still a student I once raised funds in this meeting of the building yes so when I was at school I sent my children home so that I cannot have lot of work in me until came a time that we wanted that school people...those who are doing their third year that at least in their last term they can be able to come with their wives so that she can also get something because they were going to work together at church and now my children we had a church at Rock Valley at Union Church.

TM: Yes I see it.

PM: You know it and now I think that somebody who is a superintended had spoken to them and they said that they are going to help, because when I was there they would collect children's clothes and put them together and when I go there I would take them and give them to the children at home and so the principal said to me I hope next time you are going to come with your wife because I was so rude and I said to him you want me to bring my wife here in jail only to find that I have hurt the principal when I said it was a prison. When he got to school they told me that he was in tears and they thought that maybe it was the wife and that was not true it was what I have said, but when I got to Rose Bank union I advised the woman there that the truth of this school is this one they need to behave like this and so on and they understood and in the morning they sent me to the school of their children that I should go and talk to them and even there I was talking about the same thing of

changing your heart and there was this white person that I was teaching by the name of Dr. Bernard and he said that his heart has changed and I said Jesus doesn't take it out you are supposed to change the one that you have only to find that the woman was listening and they invited me to their school and truly when I went there and when I started they were all excited to see me, only to find that they had called him and told him that we were with your student here Maphetho and so on and we want him to stay here because they speak the truth and when I came with my wife we stayed there so I have gifts of that nature.

TM: And the other thing that is happening is the issue of your children being in exile but after training they come back to the country and that was the time they arrested him, so how do you take the news of him being arrested and they are supposed to attend a case at Pietermaritzburg?

PM: Yes him being arrested as I'm saying that he was staying with my younger brother because at home where I was born he was the oldest person I'm sure he stayed there because his information will leak and we said that he must stay there.

TM: Where was that?

PM: It is called Linting.

TM: Linting?

PM: Yes it the name of that place it's there at Mphahlele, it was where there were farms before and now eh it was a place before and then later they turned it to the farm because the house was small but when I hear his history he was going to Pietersburg Polokwane everyday he was not able to stay here at home I don't know how much money he had and he was taking the bus and he made sure that he gets the news paper in town you see. His research I think he was searching how is the town of Pietersburg maybe the people who lived there and the main street, because it was said that they are going to start with people of that nature when they get there just to check how are police where he lives and what is what things like that so that is the reason he was going there everyday in the morning with a bus.

TM: Is it a distance?

PM: Yes it's a distance from here it can be I think we were calling it seventy miles something like that you see, and I remember things of that nature that what is happening, where is he going to live, what are functions of certain places it was how he knew I don't know how it was written to him but he was here to do his mission and now as he was here I think it was the second month or something like that that this kid was working here and go home because they do that and some of them go there once a month or twice in two months.

TM: Ohh he was working here at Johannesburg?

PM: Yes he was working here at Johannesburg he was a person who went there on weekend or every month and when he got there he found him there and he told him that your dad is here and he said you must send my greetings and tell him to come see me and if he doesn't come immediately I'm going and then when he came back on Sunday he told me and truly I made a plan to go and see him, I know that according to the police I was not supposed to go because if I can see him and they find out

about it they can arrest me because it's the way they told me because they say that they are dangerous and if I see him I must not come close to them but I should run to the police and you are saving other people because he can drop the bomb there and it will kill you all, that was the way they've said it (laughs) then I decided to go while I knew what I was doing was dangerous but I'm going and we went there with his mother and his mother stayed in the car I don't know if she was angry at him or what and we got there early in the morning and when we got there I parked my car and we went in to see him and he had prepared himself the way he could because I think that he thought it was the police you know and as he heard that it was me that was when he began to cool down and went inside the house to talk to them.

TM: And then when you see each other, what was it three years since he has gone?

PM: Ehh...

TM: He went in seventy six and you see each other in seventy nine?

PM: Yes.

TM: Yes and when you see each other what did you do when you see him?

PM: We started by greeting each other because now the thing that I was suppose to be scared of him I didn't care about it because what would I be scared of he is my son.

TM: How do you greet him, do you shake his hand or what?

PM: I held his hand and gave him a hug and then we went inside the house and they were busy in the dining room preparing us something to eat and we are in the house. I asked him where is he from and he said I'm from where I was, where you were where is that? And he said where I was (laughs) what are you doing are you working? And he said yes I am working and then I said to him do you know that the police want you high and low and he said no I don't know. I asked him that as you are working what you are planning to do are you here forever or what is happening? And he said yes I am back for good and I said forever and he said yes and I said to him so what are you going to do and he said he is going to look for a job and I said no you can't because they are going to arrest you as soon as you get there and the problem is that when they arrest you, you are going to react and then they will kill you so I don't think that you are safe and we talked. He asked what did I have in mind and I said to him my advice is that if you are here to work so the first thing so that the police can not rate us because they are going to arrest you and if you try to escape they are going to kill you so go and hand yourself over to them ehh I'm ready to go with you because what I'm afraid of is that if I don't go with you they will arrest you while you are trying to explain to them or shoot you and it will be a mess so it's better if I come with you, and he said ohh this is the way you think and I said yes it's the only way that I can think of because now I'm making sure that if this thing can leak in the future if he is not telling the truth I could be able to defend myself you know and I said well I can escort you tomorrow and he said yes tomorrow morning and I said it's okay you can come tomorrow morning ehh you know home because I had a house at Lebowakgomo and I said you know home and we will use the car there was police station close and I'm taking you there and after they have taken you and did all these things I will go because I want to make sure that they don't hurt you when you start to tell them who you are and then we reached an understanding, and I thought that is he really going to go there?

TM: As you are meeting Pastor I'm sorry after three years meeting him for the first time, was it the same Andrew that you knew or has he changed?

PM: Well ehh he was almost the same but because the years have passed you can see that he is not in that age but he was...I don't know if he went there while he was eight, I don't remember as I said that in the tribe there were about twenty and he was the youngest of them all.

TM: But in terms of talking and reasoning.

PM: No he talks and he reasons and exactly he was not the kind of person who likes to talk but we were talking the way we could and then I said to him I can't sleep here because if I can sleep here and these people arrive at night they are going to arrest us all I didn't have the right to sleep in the same place with you and he said I know and there is no problem with that so sleep I will come the following day. The following day I asked myself what was happening because he was supposed to be here by eight or nine in the morning so I asked myself what was happening and then it came back to me that what if they had arrested him or they got him while he was in the street at night and I said you know what the police would have told me and in the evening or maybe he went to town because he liked it and he will come back again, the following morning I said to my wife I must go early in the morning because now we knew that he was not safe it's either they got him or killed him in along the way or what was happening we didn't know and I went there to look for him and I asked where is he and they asked if he didn't come because the same night he said goodbye to them and I thought to myself this child and now another day is coming and that it's either he meet up with people along the way and something happened to him this time what is he going to go with. Well we went back and I said to his mother you see what has happened this thing is dangerous they can take us to jail for years and years the two of us so don't even try to talk and tell the people that we have found him if someone knows and ask you if we did go and see him just say that we didn't find him he had already gone.

TM: Did he ever tell you where he had gone?

PM: He just said he is from where he was and didn't talk.

TM: Nothing?

PM: Yes because if we were talking about that topic he was ignoring it and talking about other things like asking where people are like his friends you know and his sisters because there were two of them only...

TM: And did you talk about Thabo?

PM: Thabo...did he talk about Thabo...he once asked me that do I know that Thabo has passed on I don't know if it was that time or when he was arrested and then we came back home but in our heart...if there were news on the radio we would come close thinking that we would hear what had happened to him you know meaning as we are going our minds are on him and what might have happened to him it was stressing us but we kept quiet about it, all this time until he was arrested we didn't tell anyone but only the two of us knew and that's when they came ehh even if they ask me I deny it I don't know anything.

TM: When they were interrogating you?

PM: Yes I deny it because I'm scared that if I tell them they are going to arrest me because they told me so I deny it and they would ask even a small letter and I would say nothing or even just to hear about them and I said nothing even in the family because my wife had passed on so for so many years I was the one who knew.

TM: So finally how did it come about that they arrest him?

PM: For them to arrest him they came to us I don't know if it was after a year or years ohh yes but even on it my younger brother helped me, because after they have arrested him they were interrogating him and took him there where he had confessed where he was staying.

TM: At Linden?

PM: Yes and you should know that their interrogation as I have heard it was very bad and painful in a way that you ended up confessing that was what they were doing to him because they even used steel and fire and they are not scared to put a hot steel in you so that you can talk, now we were helped that when he was there on weekend I don't know who told him there at home and when he had came back Saturday they came back with him and they have chained him and we got that message and we got there before they could do anything to him so they had arrested him and they were there but on Monday they came with him here to ask if it was him and I said yes but I was thinking to say no but the way they were doing he was suppose to confess his story and I was suppose to make a plan because if I can deny it they are going to charge me so I had to come up with a plan and I thought they are going to come with him but unfortunately they left him, I think they didn't because the way they were doing they didn't want us the parents to see him like that if you can see his photo his hair is big and you will find that they even cut his hair the way they were doing so they thought not to bring him to us because we are going to cry if we can see him like that. They are getting the information from Pretoria I don't know if they got it here in Tembisa and the ones in Tembisa told the ones in Pretoria because there were even cops from Pretoria, and when they arrived here my dining room was the one in the back bed room not the one in front and we had turned it to a dining room because every time they come she was the one coming to me to tell me that my people have arrived but the surprising thing is that I was fighting and also stubborn (laughs) I was fighting with them in a way that was surprising you know and she said that they have come and I went there to see them and when I got there and we greeted each other and they told me everything and they are introducing themselves because now I know how I'm going to react and then they asked me if there was anything I heard about Andrew and I said no they asked me nothing and you haven't heard nothing and I said I don't know anything, and I said to them you know what I want to confess something and they asked what was it and I said well in this year I have meet up with Andrew and they asked me where and I gave them the full story as to where I have meet him and they haven't told me that they have arrested him and I said the time he came I went to go and see him and then I talked to him and he told me that he was from where he was and then what was your story and I told them that he said he was here to work and I advised him that he was going to be arrested so if he had come for that thing the best thing is that he surrender to the police, because now I know that if it can leak then things will be in another way I believed that if I tell them I will find a way and they asked if I said he must surrender and I said yes I even said that I will accompany him and hand him over to the police and then well he will be charged and serve his sentence and after

his sentence he will come back home then his case would be over and that's the way I have advised him so that his case can be like that because he cant he will have to go to prison to serve his sentence and then he can back and be free and now what had happen? No he didn't come in the time that we have arranged and then I told them and they said look this person is not a person we are telling you the truth he is not a person and I said how and they said look he has changed completely he is not like you and that is why he can even kill you and that's the way he is because where he was they taught him to kill and these children are taking for that thing the teach them how to kill and nothing else and so on and why didn't you tell us because we have talked that if you see him you must tell us why didn't you tell the police at Lebowakgomo to arrest him because it was not safe the things he had with him are very dangerous so why didn't you tell us, and I said well the person you are talking about he is my own son and it's not my sisters son or my brothers son he is my own blood and it was so difficult to me to call the police to came and arrest him and I asked them that if it were you in this situation how will you react, will you go and call the police and they said no and I said why do you think that I will go and call the police to arrest him because the person we are talking about is my child it's not easy for me to go and call the police for him and just hand him over and if it were you will you be able to do that to your own child...and they haven't told me that they have arrested him and they asked me how did it end and I told them that that's the reason I'm confessing it today to you because this thing had happen and now I have a problem that if this thing can lick I will go to jail that's why today because I'm a Christian and that's why today I want to confess it to you because I see that it's been a while since IU knew and it will lick and I will end up going to jail then they looked at and then they looked at each other and I said that's why because I am a Christian I think about things and finish with them because this thing will get me to trouble and then they looked at each other I dont know if it was the...yes it was the one who was from the government and he said you know what and I said what well I dont know what is happening and he said we have arrested Andrew.

TM: You acted surprised?

PM: I said what and he said we have arrested him and my wife cried and it was caous they tried to calm her down because he was crying and I said where you arrested him and he said it was me I got him at Tzaneen at Malamulela and I said if he reacted what would you have done to him and he said there was no way that he could react, was he armed and he said well the things they were using we have found them but we arrested him in a very funny way that he didn't even think about.

TM: Ohh when they arrested him he was not alone?

PM: What happened there was this other boy who is a Ngubeni from Alexandra so I'm sure he was arrested in that way because he once attended school there and he decided on the way to take and when they got to Malamulela I dont know what they were travelling with or with a helicopter because all their things were on top of the mountain all the things that they used because if I was about to take their stuff with my car I couldn't they would need a van that's why I say I dont know what was taking them to the mountain because there were Spade, Shuffle, all kind of guns and all the other stuff and now they went there their aim was that because this boy had friends there they will take these boys and train them so that they can be able to join them you see what I dont know is that were they going to train them in the mountain I dont know, and in the evening they made sure that there was a family I dont know if they knew it or what and he will tell Andrew and they will go in

the evening to that place and when they go there they are also looking for food because they were cooking for them so they were fetching this food because they were living in the mountain and there are no shops in the mountain and they only had biscuits with them well I dont know how they bought them and they stayed there ehh it happen in this way that they thought no man...they knew about them because the information has lickered from these people in the houses where they use to go and they found out about it and I think his friend said that they need to find a transport so that they can move but they dont know who was transporting them so that is why they were suspecting that there were Boers who were working with them and transporting them to put them in different places in the way that they can. So that is why I say I hope it was a helicopter that got them, and then he said he was going to look for a transport and he must stay behind I am going to look for a transport so that we can live this place because this place is not safe anymore because our information has lickered in the houses and he said if it's seven in the evening and I haven't came back you should know that they have arrested me and you must try to make a way of moving from this place I'm sure they heard that things were bad and that boy left and he went to town I think in Tzaneen because there were people that they were working with and as he went to look for transport in Tzaneen I see that he didn't find transport it shows that he didn't find it according to me and when he came back from Tzaneen he was asking lifts from people so that he can go back to Andrew because he had told Andrew that he must go after seven because if he is not back then it means they have arrested him, because now they have described them to the police as to what kind of people they are because the if they were troublesome then the police they already know because they have their pictures. As he was busy hiking and there came a police car and it was from where he was from and going to Malamulela and when it got there it passed very fast and then they looked at him I think that they have marked him because they were only two I think with his wife and when he got home he dropped his wife and he changed and went out because he knew that this person was hiking and when he went back he didn't take the same rout but he took the other one so that he can come from the same direction again you see and fortunately he found him in the road while he was walking and...

TM: He asking for lifts?

PM: Yes and he stopped and they have given them their names and also their nick names ehh and he got out and didn't make any seen so that he cannot see that this is a cop I dont know what he was wearing and then he went to him and hand shakes him to greet him and asked where he was going and he said I'm going to my place but if you can drop me at close to home and then he arrested him because now he was asking for a lift and didn't think that this could happen, so he arrested him and putted him in the van and Andrew on the other hand is waiting because his friend is going to look for transport ehh Andrew as he sees that his friend is not coming back and it was getting late but he didn't go he just stayed there and late he went down because they went down if it was quite and he was going there and when he got there he knocked and he said his name because they have given these people their names.

TM: Who are there people?

PM: They have given these people their nick names because they were not supposed to know them by their names.

TM: What did he call him self?

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PM: He was Ranjo

TM: Ranjo?

PM: Yes I dont know where he got it but his out side name was Ranjo, and then I think after he said that then they opened for him and they did and he said ehh I dont know the name of his friend but he asked for him and they said that he was not there but we can take you to where he is here is the car (laughs) and then they got into the car I think it was a van or something like that that they used and then they got in and they went, and the person who arrested them was a Lieutenant I dont know his name but his surname was Sono then when they got there they stopped ehh the person who got them if it was a police he would have came up with a plan and they said to him let us go and call him for you to see if he is there and they left him in the car and they talked to that police that they have brought him and they called him by his nick name because they didn't use their real names but nick names so they called him with his nick name and then Andrew saw that it was one of them and he handed out hid hand and then they arrested him and that's how he was arrested so easy.

TM: And where do you get the story of how he was arrested?

PM: I dont know if I...I think I heard it from Sono.

TM: The Lieutenant?

PM: Yes the one who is a cop not the one who is a Boer well I dont know where I meet Sono but I think it was at court and he told me how he arrested them because I was asking how they were arrested because they said they were dangerous how come they didn't shoot them and then they told me how they were arrested and that was when Andrew was arrested.

TM: So as the trial started did you meet with Andrew?

PM: Sorry?

TM: I'm saying that when the trial started in Pietermaritzburg did you meet up with Andrew?

PM: Yes I did go I was travelling there.

TM: But it's a long distance so where did you sleep?

PM: Ehh there at...sometimes we would go as a group and they would ask me to hire a cumbi for the family because sometimes it happen that it's one family, one family and so on you see so now it's SACC that is doing that kind of a job it was the only organisation that could help where it could then ehh when Andrew was arrested I dont know if he was the one who was talking because he was the only one there because his friend had passed on.

TM: The one he was with?

PM: Yes his friend passed on because he had a girlfriend that he was living with but they were not married and they were staying at Soweto and I think there was a misunderstanding or something along that line I dont know why ehh and he got into the car one day and went and he took a sweet potato and put it in the gas pipe so that as the car is in motion he can suffocate by gas.

TM: After the struggle?

PM: Yes after the struggle when he was back from Robben Island, but I know that the parents are still alive because I go there sometimes.

TM: Ohh they know you?

PM: Yes sometimes I do go and see them but his mother because his father had passed on I think when they were still at Robben Islands I dont know about his mother because it's been I while since I went there I dont know if I went last year or year before last.

TM: As you were attending Andrew's case were you able to talk to him?

PM: Yes you were able to have time with him so you can go and talk to him, I went there and asked...I dont know if it was once or twice were they fetched him so that I can be able to speak to him where the prisoners were seen but it was deep because they were suppose to be fetched by a car before they can get to you.

TM: How was it when you saw each other?

PM: We were just talking and there was no problem.

TM: what are you talking with?

PM: We are using our own language.

TM: I mean what are you talking about?

PM: Ehh we talk about...because the police are here so we have to be careful what we talk about so we would talk about family and things of that nature because if you can talk about other things they will end you visit.

TM: So here in Tembisa when they arrested him, do the people in Tembisa know that they have arrested him?

PM: Yes I believe that when they arrested him we told the others that he was arrested.

TM: And how are they taking it?

PM: Well we knew that they will know that it was trouble and that's all.

TM: So finally they sentence him and he goes to Robben Island.

PM: And when they got there as I'm telling you that their trial was so bad, they never meet in court the twelve of them as I'm telling you that they were the seniors, they ended up making a plan because when I went there to visit him I would ask him where are your things and he said we have hide them.

TM: What things?

PM: Their arms and their working material as I'm telling you that when they got there they were burying them even the overalls that they were wearing when they were working as I'm saying that

the way they were so many my car butt was very small to fit them in, I dont know what they used to carry them and then I asked the police and they respected me that can I please see these children stuff and it was during their lunch and when I got there it was all sort of things and I didn't have the time to ask him how they transported these things you see he was going to tell me when he was outside you see. Then ehh as I'm saying that their trial was always being disturbed and they didn't attend it they were refusing the judge to tell them because they would be singing you know.

TM: Who are the people who were singing?

PM: They were the ones who were singing you see and we just sitting there and there is nothing that we can do and the police are the one who are trying to call them to order and the judge will be standing and he couldn't do anything.

TM: Ohh.

PM: As I'm saying that they were not participating because I would see them while they were packing their book and they would ask us what are we going to do because they are not saying anything and then we were not talking anything all of us and we are not participating, and it was the truth they didn't participate he refused when they were asking him a question because one day when it was his day ehh the judge refused him to answer some question because now they have arrested them and they are going to be in the box and give a statement and if he doesn't give a statement then they ask him to respond if it's the truth and he refused to talk and they kept calling his name asking if it's the truth and that's when in the end the judge said to them the way you are doing because you dont want to participate in your case you are not talking and when the police are talking you dont respond now and we cant carry on the day I sentence you I'm going to give each one of you one year extra for contend of order and he got fifteen and the other one because it was sixteen and the last one was for contend of order and he did that to all of them, and as he did that ehh as I'm saying that SACC played a huge part during those times they hired a cumbi and then ehh when they were at Robben Island we were getting free tickets from International Committee of Red Cross from outside.

TM: Flight tickets?

PM: Yes they were giving us flight tickets and if you were using a train they you were taking a train lot of them were using a train but I was choosing a flight and sometimes I would take the train that was how we were and their offices were close to the Union Building and their offices were there I dont know if they are still there I dont know.

TM: Pastor can we please stop it here it's two hours thirty minutes now, but I want us next time to start at Robben Island that you were taking trips to there until they were realised but at the same time we will look at while they still at Robben Island what are you doing in Tembisa now and how are things going now, because it was the time where the struggle started to be intensive yes so I would like us to talk about that but the other thing that I will ask.

#####THE END#####THE END#####

