

Statement - NO. 4.
Re Alleged Assault.

10/10/11/2/25

STATEMENT.

Sachs
ICS

I, ALAN KLITH BROOKS will state:

1. I am 24 years old and a lecturer of Comparative African Government and Law at the University of Cape Town.
2. On Wednesday 22nd July, 1964, I was detained in terms of section 17 of Act No. 37 of 1963, taken to Caledon Square overnight and the next day transferred to Parow Police Station.
3. During the night of Saturday the 1st and Sunday 2nd August, 1964, at about 1 a.m. three members of the Security Police, Detective Sgt. "Spyker" van Wyk, another detective van Wyk and Detective Sgt. Zandberg came to fetch me from the Parow police station.
4. On the way to Cape Town Spyker van Wyk said to me - "You've got from now to town to decide whether you are going to talk". I did not reply.
5. They took me to Caledon Square into a small room which is sound-proof. The walls are padded with a white composition material in blocks which have regularly spaced indentations.
6. I was left alone with Zandberg. He said to me "You are going to talk". I said I would not. He then struck me in the face with his hand. I fell to the ground and then got up. He kept on hitting me in the face and on my body and I fell down again.
7. After about 10 minutes, Spyker van Wyk came in and he also started assaulting me. Zandberg put his arm around my neck and started throttling me. I was lying on the ground on my stomach and Spyker van Wyk stamped on my back with his feet. I found difficulty in breathing and when I reached the stage that I could hardly breathe any more, I called out that I could not breathe and Zandberg then released the pressure on my throat. While I was being assaulted I shouted for help and Spyker van Wyk said "Its no use, nobody will hear you".
8. They allowed me to stand up again and then they started hitting me again and then struck me down.

9. I/...

9. I backed into a corner and put up my hands to defend myself. Zandberg said "You want to make a fight of it". He picked up a chair and threw it at me. It missed me as I stepped out of its way.
10. They continued assaulting me then stopped and asked if I would talk. I said "no". He then knocked me down again. Spyker vanWyk grabbed me by my hair which is fairly long and started wrenching my head about. While he was doing this Zandberg grabbed my left foot and twisted it and then my right foot twisting it and wrenching it around with force.
11. After about an hour, Zandberg was still twisting my ankle. I was suffering shock and severe pain. My nose was bleeding and I was in a bad state. To end his torture I said that I would make a statement.
12. Shortly before this a third man came in. I do not know him. He also hit me and abused me.
12. When I said I would make a statement I was lying on the floor. Zandberg called in Det. Sgt Olivier and the other van Wyk. These two and Zandberg settled themselves at the table and prepared to write. I was lying on the floor half propped up against the wall with Spyker vanWyk behind me with his one leg across my right leg and the other leg across my hip.
13. They started prompting me and interrogating me and asked a number of questions. I was in great pain and felt humiliated and degraded. I was questioned for about 1 1/2 to 2 hours. When they finished, Spyker van wyk made me stand in the corner for about half an hour. During the period that I was being interrogated, Spyker van Wyk abused me. He called me "Jou moer, jou hond" and threatened me several times saying "Jy sal sterf".
14. I was then taken to a bathroom and allowed to wash my face. I was in a bad state and Spyker vanWyk said that I was filthy.

15. I/.....

15. I was then taken back to Parow. On the way Spyker van Wyk said "It is now 10 past 4. We are coming at 6 a.m. to take a detailed statement". They did not come however at that time.

16. On the Monday morning the 3rd August, 1964, Capt. Rossouw came to Parow and took me back to Cape Town. He read the statement over to me. He said that this was not a satisfactory statement and that he wanted more details. I was most apprehensive that I would be assaulted again but nevertheless said that I would sign that statement and no other. I made a number of corrections to the statement which I initialled. I asked Capt. Rossouw to put in a paragraph to the effect that I had made a statement after being assaulted while lying on the ground with Spyker van Wyk sitting on top of me. Capt. Rossouw then wrote this down on the statement and I then signed it. The statement was in the handwriting of the other van Wyk, the corrections were in my handwriting, signed and initialled by me and Rossouw signed as commissioner of oaths. I was in grave fear that if I did not sign I would go through the whole treatment again.

17. On the Sunday morning after the assault when Sgt. van Rensburg of Parow brought my breakfast, I reported the assault to him. He called Lieut Loubser who was in charge of the Parow police station and asked me if I wanted to make a statement then. I said I would make a statement to the Magistrate whom I knew would be visiting me the following day. The same Sunday afternoon after my verbal complaint, the Acting District Surgeon, Dr. Krige examined me in a very perfunctory way for about 5 minutes.

18. On Monday 3rd August, the additional Magistrate, I am not sure if his name is Knoetze or Knoesser, visited me. I made a detailed statement of the assaults which he wrote down. He examined me for visible injuries and recorded about 10 bruises and the swelling on my ankles.

19. Later/.....

19. Later that day the Dist. Surgeon Dr. Vivier gave me a more thorough examination. He had a printed form. I told him I wanted to lay a charge. He filled in the form and gave me some tablets to ease the pain and to reduce the swelling of my ankles.

20. As a result of the assaults my face had swollen up so much so that I could hardly see. Both my eyes were black.

21. On 18th August, 1964 the British Consul Mr. Ballentyne visited me. I reported the assaults to him. My ankles were still painful and when I walked it was with difficulty.

22. I asked to be examined by an Orthopaedic surgeon and presumably as a result of his visit, I was taken to Bellville Medical Centre to some radiologist there and X-rays were taken of my feet and ankles. I think this was on a Tuesday afternoon.

23. The following evening an Orthopaedic Specialist Dr. Steytler of Medical Centre Bellville, came to see me and examined my ankles. He told me that my left ankle was severely sprained and the X-ray plates which the radiologist had sent to him showed a crack in my right ankle bone. He then set my right ankle and foot in plaster and strapped up my left ankle. Dr. Steytler visited me again to take the plaster set. At a subsequent visit he removed the bandages from my left foot and at his final visit, removed the plaster from my right foot. The bandages were on my left foot for about 3 weeks and the plaster on my right foot for 4 weeks and 2 days.

24. My right ankle is still weak and I cannot run. The District Surgeon has the X-rays.

25. I wish to claim damages for assault and contumelia. I also wish to have Spyker vanWyk and Zandberg prosecuted for their assaults on me.