

Information from Mr Skotomani Ndesi , Mr Witvoet Mapapu and to a lesser extent Mr Gunguthu Zakhe in the presence of Mr Vena , Mr Gidani , Mrs Futhuse and Mrs Bele . (Not exact translation but a very informal summary of discussion .)

"The Alice magistrate told us in 1979 , in the first year we had here at Glenmore , that we must hold a general meeting at the end of every month . He said this to the Glenmore Residents' Committee of that time , then headed by Mr Skotomani Ndesi the chairman . But now Mr Strauss the superintendent of Glenmore is obstructing us . He might even have sent the police to us . The police have punished some people for arranging a church service . When we appealed to the Commissioner in Grahamstown he offered to check with Port Elizabeth for us but never replied to us .

"We tried to hold the church service in Glenmore . It was to be on Saturday 2 February 1985 . First we went to Mr Strauss and he said we are not allowed to hold a meeting . But this was a church service , and we told him that . We thought it must be correct that we could hold a church service even without his permission because that comes under the church , not the administration . Then he agreed .

"We had thought of holding a church service because Mr Strauss had not wanted us to have any meetings . At least in prayers we could join together as a community . The best place for the service was under trees next to the administration offices . We had held a service there once before , on 16 December 1984 . That Sunday was Family Day . Fourteen clergy of various denominations conducted that service and it was well attended .

"On 2 February 1985 we were waiting at that same place before the service when a lot of Ciskei soldiers and Ciskei police came to us . They came in about three lorries . Others went to the bridge at the Fish River . The soldiers were in full uniform , a brownish one . The police were mostly in plain clothes , except for the men of higher rank . They were armed with rifles .

"They asked us , What are you doing? We replied we were there for a church service , and it was about to begin . The police said , You are lying . They asked us if we had got permission from the superintendent and we said he had agreed .