

MCK

XQRA #3:).3Fi i

STATEMENT 0 THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FOUR ANC MEN FROM BHUNYA POLICE STATION IN SWAZILAND

On April 9, 1984 Magaga and myself were arrested at a road block near Manzini.

On our arrest we were transported to Mqhezini police station where we were locked up. On Tuesday 13th I was involved in a squabble with the station commander which resulted in my transfer to Bhunya police station at about 8pm.

On my arrival at Bhunya police station I was put in isolation where I remained until about 8pm Saturday 14th. On that Saturday morning the Royal Swazi Police had attacked some of our comrades who were living at Ngwane Park. Here they had arrested four of them and had subsequently transferred them to Bhunya. So, when they arrived, three high ranking police officers i.e. Mamba (Bhunya Police Station commander) Majaji Simelane (chief of intelligence) and Stanley Bhembe (Manzini District Station officer) came to see me and ordered me to collect whatever belongings I had so as to move me into the cell adjacent to mine where I would join two local inmates. I moved out and they then looked me up again with these two fellows. A few minutes later I heard chains clanking then the constable who was on duty started enquiring names from the people who had just been brought in. It is then that I learned that there were four people. As these four people made their way to their cells, I could hear the sound of leg-irons and chains being dragged on the concrete floor. Having locked them up Majaji Simelane and Stanley Bhembe left the police station. Mamba, the station commander, then left the station and went to his house. A few minutes later Mamba returned to the station. Then he ordered the constable on duty plus two other junior officers to take a Van and head for the Bhunya football ground where they would find another Van with ANC cadres. They were to return with them but go: until he had contacted them on the RT. This resulted in him being left alone in the entire police station. Immediately after the departure of the officers Mamba went to the cell with the four people and brought them out to the charge office. The first thing he said to them was "Nithi Ginhle lento eniyehzile majaha ukuthi senizobulala nathi?" There was no response to this question and he then went on to ask them their names and from which part of South Africa they came. It was at this point that I figured that these four people were burghers. Shortly afterwards I heard a car pull up to the station. Some people jumped out of it and one said "Heyta". Just then Mamba started screaming and crying out: "Nayii - ANC iyangibulala" (ANC is killing me). It was then that I could hear the leg-irons and chains moving out towards the main entrance of the police station. The car then drove off with the four cadres. When they left, the entire police station with the exception of my cell was in darkness plus the alarm was not operating.

I strongly believe that our comrades were not rescued by some of our cadres but that the enemy kidnapped them. My reasons for believing this are as follows:

Firstly; the station commander does not remain alone in a police station and on top of it instruct a police officer on duty to go out and make an arrest;

Secondly: the station commander had no reason to take personal particulars from the cadres since the constable on duty had already taken notes of that. It appears to me that this was just a pretext to make the handover of the comrades to these mysterious persons even easier;

Thirdly: if it had been our cadres who had come to the rescue they would have made sure that they remove the leg-irons and handcuffs before taking the four since the station commander had all the keys in his custody. Additionally, they would have also collected their personal belongings which were shoes; belts and an amount of R70;

About an hour after the "rescue" Mamba called the officers on the RT saying:

Come back now. Come back -over. When they returned they learnt what had happened.

Mamba instructed them to be back at 2 am so as to conduct a road block at some point on the Bhunya road. The following day I was able to hold a discussion with the officers and it was apparently clear to them that the ANC could not have been involved in the operation. They were convinced that the three high ranking officers had some knowledge of the operation.