Ncunyiswa Hans LRC Oral History Project 4â\204¢ September 2008
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This is an interview with Ncunyiswa Hans and itâ\200\231s the 4th of September 2008, Thursday. Ncunyiswa, on behalf of SALS Foundation, we really want to thank you for agreeing to participate in the LRC Oral History Project. I wondered whether we could start the interview, if you could talk about your early childhood memories, growing up in South Africa under apartheid, and where you think your sense of social justice and injustice developed?

Ja, I grow up here, in a place called Dordrecht...Dordrecht.

Dordrecht?

Ja. I grew up there, and I was brought up by my grandma, my grandmother, because my parents were working here in Cape Town, and my grandmother was a domestic worker in Dordrecht. I grew up there and then my father was involved in the struggle.

Ok.

Ja, he was involved in ANC. We grew up under these conditions. I really didnâ\200\231t get good education, not at all, but I passed my Standard Ten by the help of the Catholic Church. And I also moved to Cape Town after some time. The whole family was involved in the struggle, all of us. We used to be detained, so on, all of us at home, my father and the children as well, except my mother who was never been jailed. And as I grew up, I was employed, my first employment, I was employed by a commercial law firm, and at that time I joined Umkhonto we Sizwe, working underground, you know, here. I didnâ\200\231t go up to exile, but I was working here inside. As I was working there, I

was deployed by my commanders to go and work at the Council of Churches, where I work with people like Bishop Tutu, Beyers Naude, um...Frank Chikane, Wesley Mabuza. As I was working there, you know, I was doing my work, as an Umkhonto we Sizwe member, helping people to skip the country, and harbouring those who are coming...coming from outside to work inside. It was a special operation thing, because we were trying to liberate the country by then. And then things become...became hot for me at the Council of Churches. The Security Police were after me, and somebody told me that ok, from our cell, told me that ok, move to the LRC, go and work at the LRC.

So you were deployed?

Ja, I was deployed here at the LRC, by my commanders to come and work here, because we used to say that the attorneys at the LRC, they were...they were liberal. We called them the liberals. They said just go and work there; youâ\200\231re going to be interviewed by Shehnaz Meer. Shehnaz Meer who was Professor Meerâ\200\231s daughter. Youâ\200\231re going to be interviewed by Shehnaz and Nomathi Yalanga... Nomathi Yalanga is a Member of Parliament now. These people are going to interview you.

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They are going to take you and then work there. Really, I came for an interview, I was taken, just to move from the Council of Churches, because the Security Police were on me, they were after me. They even destroy my home in Paarl.

Right.

And then I was always detained. Each time thereâ\200\231s a State of Emergency, I was detained. Then I moved here, and I started working here. Really I was undercover, nobody really knew what was happening with me. And I found LRC to be a...really, a very good place for me, and even for others. At that time we were working, the teamwork, there was that teamwork, like we were like a family; we were few, quite few...few attorneys, few admin staff. I started working here as a receptionist. And at that...during that time I was always in and out of the country, you know. Like over the weekends, I would leave South Africa, go to Swaziland, come back Monday morning and come to work, go to Botswana, I was doing that, I was in and out of the country. But my bosses here at the LRC, they were not aware of that. Sometimes I would just â\200\230phone and lie and say Iâ\200\231m not feeling well. They would understand, you

know. LRC...LRC really was really for people. That time they were really fighting injustice in the country. Ja, we were a teamwork, we were working like that. We were...that brotherhood and sisterhood was there at the LRC. We used to feel for each other and then I was...

Who was the director when you were there?

It was Lee Bozalek.

Ok...

Lee Bozalek was a director at that time and I think he...he was a director for seven years, I worked with him. And the office manager was Lynn Ashman and then after Lynn Ashman it was Brettina Bosman, I think. And these people were understanding, you know, really understanding, and I think if it was not because of LRC I wouldnâ\200\231t make it, you know. [mean, my political side. And at that time, during that time when I was working here, my father died. He was arrested and then he had a stroke in jail and then after that he died. And I was so angry, you know, and even during that time, the LRC was with me. At the same time, I was learning about law, you know. Because at the Council of Churches I was doing something different, I was an...an administrative officer. When I came here it was a law firm, I was a receptionist and so on. I worked here and I...I think the following year, 1988, October, after Strydom killed a lot of black people in Pretoria, I was arrested, I was detained, and then I was kept in...they call it...they used to call it Section 29. It was in solitary confinement, I was kept there for six months, locked there alone. And I got a lot of support at the LRC. I think my director then, Lee Bozalek, made a statement. These are the things that they kept me going inside, and then I was not even harmed by the...

Security Police.

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... Security Police, because Lee Bozalek was out with a statement. My director, Charl Cilliers, who was working for...

The Trust.

Ja! As well! And Shehnaz Meer, they were all behind me, making statement to the press and pressurising the police to release me, because I was tortured, badly tortured, mentally tortured, which I landed up in Groote Schuur Hospital in a psychiatric ward, you know. I was beaten up on the head and so on. Then they pressured the police that they must release me, which I was released in hospital...from hospital, because Legal Resources Centre sent letters stating that I cannot stand the trial under these conditions, and then I was released and then after that I was sick for a long time, very sick. I was admitted in hospital for three months. And the LRC kept me, you know. I mean, if I was somewhere or working for government, or working for another like commercial law firm, I would have been fired but just because it was the LRC, I was kept, and at that time, most of them, including my director, Lee Bozalek, didnâ\200\231t kn ow

what was happening. I was a member of Umkhonto we Sizwe. He didnâ $200\231t$ know I was doing this underground work, and then, ja, I didnâ $200\231t$ appear in court, and then I had

lawsuit against the police and so on, it was just like that. But all in all, after fourteen years working as a receptionist, I was promoted to the position of a paralegal. Now Iâ\200\231m a paralegal and at least I enjoy what Iâ\200\231m doing. I think 2000...ja, 20 00, I was

promoted to a paralegal job and then, by that time, the director was Vincent Saldanha because he said you $\hat{a}200\231$ ve been doing this for a long time, just move, and then I becom e

a paralegal, which I was doing...I was working in the Access to Justice Project, which I enjoyed a lot, to assist the poorest of the poor, you know, it \hat{a} \200\231s a fulfilling thing

presently, you know. After...now we are...I can say we are, we have moved on, we are liberated now, and then I enjoy what I'm doing, like working with refugees, doing the front desk work, everyone who comes in the office, $I\hat{a}200\231m$ the first person to list en to

the problem of that person, and if $it\hat{a}\200\231s$ something that we can handle here at the LR C, I

speak to the attorney, who is co-ordinating that project. If $ita\200\231s$ something that we dona $200\231t$

deal with at the LRC, I refer the people to the relevant organisation or relevant attorneys. That is my work that $Ia\200\231$ m doing presently. (Laughs.)

Well, this is a fantastic introduction. I want to take you a bit back, because you said to me, when growing up your father was a political activist. Do you think you were influenced by him or do you think that you experienced certain...you had certain experiences of ...apartheid that made you want to actually become involved yourself?

Well, I think I was...firstly, I can say I was...

Influenced?

Influenced by what was happening at my home during that time, you know. I was sort of angry, you know, I grew up very angry, and even my younger brother telling you that he has no limbs, no...

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Really?

Ja, because of this. I was angry because sometimes the police would come early in the morning and kick the doors and so on, and take my father out, throwing him on the...I grew up with that anger. And then the other thing, my father was always talking to us and telling us what is happening and saying to us, even if I die, you must take up this thing, fight, my children, until you get liberated. And I was also...I also saw what was happening, like...I once...I once went to a school that was led by the Dutch Reformed Church. At that school, we were taught that a black person was not blessed by God; itâ\200\231s from the Bible, and so on. And then these things were always in my mind and I remember the other day, my younger brother, we went to Port Elizabeth with my mother, and she took us to the beach. And then we were not allowed to swim in that beach, it was for white...only whites, it was written Only Whites. And then we were chased away like dogs. And then my younger brother was crying, crying, grabbing my mother, telling my mother that, I want to be white! I want to be white! And these things they were making me very angry. And then I started to say, I love myself, as I am, and Iâ\200\231'm going to fight until we get liberated. And I knew that I cannot fight

my own. But I said, $la\200\231$ 'm going to mobilise people, I'm going to assist people to sk ip

the country, to get trained and come back and fight, and after...that is what I was doing.

Right. You mention your brother not having limbs. What happened there?

My brother was in exile at...heâ\200\231s...when I was detained, you know, I used to have cells, I used to have cells here in South Africa. I had a cell in Cape Town, a cell in Paarl. When I was detained, all the people that I work with were also detained. And my brother was in my cell in Paarl.

Ok...

But he managed to run and skip the country. And then he came back when the exiles were coming back, and he was sitting in a house in KTC and the police...the police van was passing, they threw the hand grenade on him. And then, his arms and legs had to be amputated from...from that.

Gosh.

Ja.

And is he still alive?

 $\text{He\^a}\200\231s$ still alive, yes. $\text{He\^a}\200\231s$ still alive, sitting on a wheelchair.

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Right. And did he go forward to the TRC?

Excuse me?

TRC?

No, no, he didnâ\200\231t go. I was the...I went, I made...actually, it was me who made submissions to the TRC whereby I was classified as a victim, you know? Ja. Because we went there to the TRC and I also get reparation, you know? And ja, yes, but heâ\200\231s sort of getting counselling, you know...I get sort of disturbed if I talk about these things, they are still there, you know. (Laughs.) You know... Thatâ\200\231s why I want to cry.

Yes, I understand. Ncunyiswa, when you got to the LRC, you told me you were deployed here. But the idea of your deployment, was that for, for seeing what the LRC was doing or was it really to give you some protection from the...the Security Police?

Ja, it was some protection, no, no, I was not a spy. We knew that...we knew that the LRC was doing a good job. LRC was doing a very, very good job. LRC was fighting injustice, you know? Using the law as a weapon to fight injustice. And then it was sort of like, (laughs), it was sort of a security...to protect me, you know. And I knew...I knew that if I...we knew that if I come here, I was going to get even legal protection if anything happens to me, you know...Ja, we knew that the LRC was working for people, ja.

Right. At what point did the people in the office, like Lee Bozalek and Shehnaz Meer know that you were part of Umkhonto?

They only knew the day I was arrested in the office. They only knew on that day.

Right.

They only knew on that day. And then the other thing we also wanted to use the resources, you know. During that time, there was a case that was going on, when I was deployed here. The case...KTC case, the Witdoek when they burned down KTC...

Right. Matthew Walton, Steve Kahanovtiz and Lee Bozalek?

Ja, they were doing that case. And then I was deployed at that time, because the comrades from KTC were also coming to the LRC for help. And then I was deployed to sort of assist, give out information, I was sending out information out of the country immediately, which I was also getting it from LRC, when the attorneys were

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talking that we are doing this for people, we are doing that for people, I would quickly communicate that information outside the country, that the Legal Resources Centre is doing this and that and that, for the people here.

 $Ia\200\231'm$ also wondering, when you started working as a receptionist, this was in the late

eighties, what were some of the key...who was coming into the office, because I know the KTC case, there were lots of people coming in. Could you talk a bit about that period, because...and then in 94 when things started changing?

Ja, people were coming in the office mostly at that time, it was people who had labour matters, labour problems, consumer, including comrades, those who were...who had their people were detained, they were coming to LRC as well. Ja, I think...these were the cases that we were doing, workmenâ\200\231s compensation, things like this, you know.

And then, when the LRC...during that time, Arthur Chakalson was the National Director...

Yes.

What was your experience of the LRC? You said that it was very close, Lee Bozalek was the Regional Director, you were working as a family. When did that change? Did that change?

It changed. I think it changed...you know, I donâ $200\231t$ want to blame directors, because William took over after Lee Bozalek, and then Lee Bozalek was sort of an advocate here in the office before he went out, and then there was that spirit again. But I think in 1999, things started to change at LRC.

Right.

Ja.

Why do you think that change came? What happened?

Maybe, maybe the office started to expand and grow, because we were few at that time, and then a lot of people were employed and then...things started to change.

When you say a lot of people, you mean more lawyers? Because I think the same lawyers were in the office, so was it more admin staff? What was happening?

I think there were new lawyers as well, and admin staff, you know.

Right.

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I think...but there was a big change, really.

And how did Bongani Majola as a National Director, how did that...him being a National Director, how did that impact?

Let me start with (Arthur Chaskalson), ne? I think I started when Arthur (Chaskalson) was a National Director. You know, Arthur was...was a father. You know, I remember, when Lee (Bozalek) was stepping down as a director, I was on maternity leave at home, in my house. Arthur a^200^230 phoned me and asked me, who would you like to see as a director in our office? Would you like to see William (Kerfoot)? At home! Arthur (Chaskalson). And then I said, I would like to see William (Kerfoot), Arthur (Chaskalson). And then I said a lot of people they want William (Kerfoot), and so on. Arthur (Chaskalson) was that type of a person who was a bit different from Bongani (Majola). And I donâ\200\231t want to comment about Bongani. (Laughs.)

Ok.

Mm, I donâ\200\231t want to. Because during that time, I donâ\200\231t want to, really.

Ok.

Thanks.

And then after that, there was Vincent Saldanha was Acting Director, then there was Steve Kahanovitz, and now it \hat{a} 200\231s Janet Love. What are your experiences of the LRC more generally now?

With our National Director?

Generally...

Ja, itâ $200\231s$ a working place, I can...I can just put it in that way. You, you feel that youâ $200\231re$

going to work. Ja, youâ\200\231re going to...itâ\200\231s, itâ\200\231s not, you understand what I mean, before,

it was like a home, a family sort of, now the experience is that it $a \sim 231s$ a...it $a \sim 231s$ a working

place. Weâ\200\231re coming to work now. We are here at work, we must work, and then our National Director, I can say, I love her. You know, $ita\200\231s...ita\200\231s$ a nice thin g to see a

woman. | always say ithamalam makosikazi malibongwe, a strong woman like her. And ja, we support her, we love her, we love her, really. I think sheâ\200\231s a strong woman...and who knows a lot about struggle. Sheâ\200\231s clear, as I see her, you know. I love her.

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Iâ\200\231'm wondering though, you were...you are a very strong part of the ANC, but when the ANC came into government in 1994, what was your experience in terms of knowing that the LRC, because $ita\200\231s$ a public law interest firm, has to then take on cases against government, and $ita\200\231s$ an ANC government. How have you dealt with that? As an ANC person?

(Laughs.) You know, I know that the LRC is...is...I donâ\200\231t know how to put it, itâ $200\231s$ not a destructive...

Force?

You see, ja. When the LRC criticise something, they do it in a constructive way. They are not destructive. And I knew that the LRC is going to, presently, I think the LRC presently, what are they doing? They are promoting the Constitution. They are protecting the Constitution, which is a good thing that they are doing presently. Even...even if I'm an ANC member, wrong things or bad things should be pointed out and I always trust LRC.

Right. You mention the Constitution, but as you know recently the ANC and members of the ANC have criticised the Constitution, they $200\231$ criticised the Constitutional Court as counter-revolutionary, and do you have concerns about how... you know, Arthur and George have both issued a statement saying that this is... the language has been improper. $200\230$ Kill for Zuma $200\231$ for example.

You know, I think you are aware of the fact that in the ANC...let me put it...let me put it clear, we are divided.

Of course. Itâ\200\231s a big broad church, I know.

Ja, we are really divided. Then $Ia\200\231m$ sure you will understand what I mean. We are really divided. Ja.

But what are your concerns as an ANC...whether youâ\200\231re divided or not, you are still ANC. What are your concerns about the future of an organisation like this, when there are threats against the judiciary and the legal profession?

I am very concerned about the future of the ANC, really.

About thee ANC or the LRC?

Oh you mean...what concerns of...of the future? Are you asking about the LRC or the ANC?

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The LRC, the LRC...

No, no, no. The LRC is...I wish the LRC could take a stand, really, you know. I...I was very impressed by George Bizos and Arthur (Chaskalson) when they came out, even last night I saw Arthur (Chaskalson) on TV.

Tell me about that...

I sat down and listened...

What did he say?

I was very, very impressed when he was talking there, you know. Presently, I think the ANC, presently is going another way, which $I\hat{a}\200\231$ 'm very concerned. That now, itâ $200\231$ s

 $not...it a \200\231s$ no longer about people, it is about individuals who I think wants to fat ten up

their pockets and so on. That is my main concern now about the LRC and $I\hat{a}\200\231'$ m just praying that things change, you know. And for your information...I don $\hat{a}\200\231t$ want to...but I'm so disappointed about my organisation and we need organisations like LRC to stand up and protect our Constitution and protect our courts.

Do you have concerns about the future of the LRC in this environment?

Not really.

No? You think the LRC will survive?

No, $\hat{a}\200\230$ it will survive $\hat{a}\200\231$, and we need it! We need...now; it is the more we nee d LRC to

survive. Iâ\200\231'm not concerned about the LRC, and it will be the LRC whoâ\200\231s going to

fight this injustice, who a $200\ 231s$ going to protect our Constitution, who a $200\ 231s$ going to protect

our courts. No, no, no, $la\200\231m$ not worried about the LRC. LRC is going to survive.

Since you were reception at...that still was a frontline because when people came through the door, they came to you first. And then you referred them. $1a\200\231'm$ wondering

whether youâ\200\231ve seen a change from 1987 there was workmenâ\200\231s compensation, a lot of

political cases etc., detentions cases, the KTC case, and then around the 1994 period, there was a focus area, emphasis on focus areas. And so now the focus area...in the

Cape Town office, what is the focus area, who do you see predominantly? It \hat{a} 200\231s refugees now.

Ok.

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Ja, we are dealing mostly with refugees and they...we donâ $\200\231t$ see a lot of locals, an d

I...it worries me a bit, I donâ\200\231t know whatâ\200\231s happening. Or maybe itâ\200\231s because of 1994,

we have voted, now things...like, ja, I think so, because things have changed a bit, because CCMA is in place, Department of Labour is in place, Consumer is in place, there are other things that are in place, and then I think most of people now are aware of their rights, ita^200^231s not like before, you know.

Right. You as a person of this country, do you have problems with, for example, only refugees coming through the door, or do you...or do you think that more local people should actually be using this service? Whatâ\200\231s your sense of this?

I think more...even...refugees and South Africans should use our services, ja. Ja, they should use our services, but I...I donâ $200\231t$ know exactly what is really happening, but I

just think...like the other day, I talked to the paralegals at the Black Sash. They are experiencing the same thing as LRC. But we do get them, they come, we do get...but $it\hat{a}200\231s$ not as a huge number as before, ja.

Right. $Ia\200\231$ 'm also wondering, in terms of the people who are actually coming through the door, what are some of the cases that you feel are very rewarding and indicate why it is you do this kind of work?

The cases that we do?

Yeah, the clients...some of the stories.

The cases that are rewarding, ita^200^231s women cases.

Gender cases?

Gender cases, ja. I love them very much. When I assist a woman, a battered woman, abused woman and a child, $it\hat{a}\200\231s...it\hat{a}\200\231s$ rewarding. Of course even the refugee matters,

they are rewarding, because you assist somebody from another country whoâ\200\231s here, who needs your help, and...ja, itâ\200\231s women, refugees, and ja, and just generally, to assist a person, when a person says to you thank you, and go out of that door, itâ\200\231s rewarding, you know. Like...like you know, though we are not taking cases, you know, this organisation really...itâ\200\231s like a centre of everything, because everyone, you

know, we donâ $\200\231t$ deal with each and every matter here, but everyone comes here, like criminal matters...

Right. And then you refer them out.

Yes. We listen...sit down with them, we listen to their stories, we make $\hat{a}\200\230$ phone calls,

we type letters for them and then we refer them nicely.

NH Int NH Int NH Int NHInt NH Int NH Int NH Int 11 I remember that during the 1980s there were lots of advice offices, and LRC would work very closely with the advice offices... With the advice offices, and then the unions. And then the unions. But now that has changed hasnâ $200\231t$ it? Since *94? Mm, it has changed, but in other offices like Johannesburg office and Durban office, I think they are still working with the advice offices and so on. But not here in Cape Town, you know. Ja. Right, ok. And you did a paralegal training? No. You havenâ\200\231t done this? No, I got the in-service training. Ok, right. I was trained...ja, in-house by the attorneys, I never went out and do the training that Do you use the sniff test? Yes. Ok, all right. Iâ\200\231'm also wondering, Ncunyiswa, in terms of...you say the refugee ca the female cases are very rewarding, but do you have a problem with the fact that there are people who come here, who have a problem, but because of funding and the focus areas, the LRC lawyers canâ\200\231t attend to them? Does that not concern you? Because youâ\200\231re in the frontlines, you listen to the stories.

Sometimes it concerns me. But even though we...here at the LRC I have never had a

case that a person was told we cannot help you, goodbye, and so on. No, it doesnâ\200\231t

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happen that. We refer a person to the Legal Aid...Iâ $\200\231m$ just making an example. Sure, sure.

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A person...we take the matter to Litcom we discuss it there with the attorneys, we look at it, how can we assist this person? And then the person would be referred somewhere with a letter, and then there is a follow-up to see that person is really assisted there. And many of them, sometimes if they are not happy where we refer, they come back to us and tell us. Thereâ\200\231s no one who was just told go...no.

Iâ\200\231m also wondering, in terms of...

Did I answer your question?

Yes, of course. Youâ\200\231ve worked with a range of lawyers. Iâ\200\231'm wondering wheth er

thereâ $200\231s$ a particular lawyer that youâ $200\231ve$ really enjoyed working with that yo u feel, that you think...

Number one: William Kerfoot.

Right, right.

Number one: William Kerfoot. Number two: Chantel Fortuin. But the other one who trained me, who taught me how to write a legal letter is no longer here: Ashraf (Mohamed)

Ok, Mohamed?

Mohamed...these two lawyers, three lawyers, really...but presently, number one it \hat{a} 200\231s William Kerfoot. I enjoy working with him. He criticises a person but in a constructive way. He builds you, you know...

Up?

Up, ja. And Chantel (Fortuin) is number one. Chantel throws you in a deep end and says do it yourself, come back to me with it and then you struggle and then...I love her. And Chantel is doing the gender issues.

Right. So the cases that...you...you say gender issues and you say refugees, but what are the real problems that they come with? Is it evictions? Is it rape? Is it child abuse? What are the main cases?

The...the gender?

Yes...

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Itâ $200\231s$ domestic violence, mainly. And then the others, we donâ $200\231t$ do divorces here, but

they come. Like a person, when he comes with a domestic...

Issue?

...issue, a domestic violence issue, at the end when you discuss this matter with him, with her, you end up going to a divorce issue, you know. And then we donâ\200\231t deal with

that here, and many times I would accompany them to...to the Family Court.

Ok.

To...to apply for a protection order, and then after that I always assist them to fill in the divorce forms and so on, and then...ja, if...when they appear in front of the magistrate, Ia^200^231 m always there with them, holding their hands.

 $Ia\200\231$ ve understood that people at some point, I think it was 2006, 2007, they were giv en

retrenchment letters. Were you affected by that?

I was very, very much affected. Really, I was very, very much affected. You know, I want to tell you, after the ANC came in power, I $didna^200^231t$ want to leave LRC. Never! I $didna^200^231t$ want...other people they said get a job in Parliament, get a job there and t here,

 $\mbox{weâ}\200\231\mbox{ve got...but I didnâ}\200\231\mbox{t want to leave LRC because it was just like home to me. It was$

1994, it was just like home to me, I was...I didnâ\200\231t want to leave. But when we get these letters I was very, very affected by that, and looking at my age as well, I was very, very affected, and I was even...you know, we say an injury to one is an injury to all, you know. We knew these people who were leaving the organisation. It was quite a painful time. I even ask somebody from outside to come and give us...I spoke to...William (Kerfoot) was an Acting Director by then. I said, William (Kerfoot) we need an advice from someone outside and then he said to me, go ahead, organise it as a paralegal, and then someone came and advised us.

About your rights?

Mm.

And from this office, who was retrenched finally?

They were not really retrenched here. They were given short time...is it short time?

Yes.

Ja, they were given...they were sort of given short time. It was Thembile (Manelli), Dawn, Nhikiza (Matshaya), Fairuz they were only four, but Fairuz decided to resign

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and Bongeka also left during that time, because I think she felt insecure and then she left at that time, which it helped these three again to work full time.

Sure. I'm also wondering, youâ\200\231ve worked at the LRC a long time, as you said you had opportunities in 1994, you could have worked for the ANC, you could have earned a larger salary, but what keeps you with the LRC, even now when there might be certain dissatisfactions?

You know, first let me tell you that LRCâ\200\231s quite a beautiful organisation. Itâ\200 \231s a lovely

organisation and when you work, you go home saying that, though you know, $Ia^200^231'm$ no longer...when I come in, I just come, 'm coming home, Ia^200^231m coming to my family members, 'm coming to my...no, I know that $Ia^200^231'm$ coming to work. $Ia^200^231'm$ coming to

work but beautiful people are coming in that door, assisting these people, helping them.

Right.

You know. And having attorneys like William Kerfoot, you know, Chantel (Fortuin), it keeps you going at the LRC. And I must mention that this organisation is a beautiful organisation and we $a\200\231$ re still going to work and LRC is still going to...but we need money. In South Africa we still need LRC, an organisation like this. This is...

Why do you think that?

Hmm?

Why do you think that in South Africa you still need an LRC?

We need it. Like as we have mentioned that there are people who are attacking courts, judges and so on. There are people who would not respect our Constitution, people who stand publicly, telling the police to shoot to kill; we will kill in the name of a certain individual, things like this. The LRC is here as a watchdog. Do you get...do you understand my point?

Absolutely.

Ja.

 $I\hat{a}\200\231$ ve asked you so many questions, $I\hat{a}\200\231$ 'm wondering whether there $\hat{a}\200\231$ s so mething $I\hat{a}\200\231$ ve neglected to ask you, which you feel ought to be included as part of the LRC Oral

History interview?

I donâ $\200\231t$ know. Ask...

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(Laughs.) Ncunyiswa, in terms of a memory, I wondered whether you could share a memory, a story of an experience, whether it was with William (Kerfoot) or Ashraf (Mohamed) or Chantel (Fortuin) or even a client, that you felt...you really felt that it was important to you and it makes you treasure being at the LRC?

Um...

Iâ\200\231m sure there are many...

Thereâ $\200\231s$ quite a lot but thereâ $\200\231s$ only one that I like. It was an old man, Mr Pentecost,

was a white man, an old man who was evicted. You know, I must tell you about the story that...the case that I did myself, and then I donâ $200\231t$ forget it. Ja, thereâ $200\231s$ quite a lot,

there $a \geq 00 \leq 31$ s quite a lot, but this one, this old man was evicted, you know, and I wrote a

letter, you know, a very strong letter to the landlord and then he...the man...his things were thrown outside. And he was quite old, 78 years old, and then I wrote this letter, and he came back, Mr...the following day he came back with a note. I still have this note. Writing, thanking me what $Ia\200\231$ ve done for him and so on, and that one stays in my

heart forever. I love it, I love it, you know.

Ncunyiswa, thank you so much. I really enjoyed it. You have a remarkable history and I really enjoyed listening to your interview. Thank you.

Thanks a lot.

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