

LNN (003/0001/38) nd
STATEMENT - JACKSON TAYO

Married and has a wife at Lady Frere. One child born whilst he was here under detention.

Arrested on the 19th August, 1963. I slept that night at Central offices, Cape Town and the following day I was taken to Pretoria. I was with Luke Swart Ngudlu, David Singoma. (Ngudlu died and Davidis still at Pretoria but no one seems to know of his whereabouts).

On the 21st we were locked up. Singoma and I were taken to Pretoria gaol. Ngudlu was not taken to the same place.

On the 27th or so (not sure) I was taken by African police who said I should tell him all I have been doing in Cape Town. I said I was not prepared to make a statement to him but to the magistrate. He told me to undress and then lift my hands up and start exercising. After 30 minutes he came with a pocket similar to bank money bags and pulled it over my head and face. He handcuffed my hands behind my back. He connected something like wires to my small fingers and one wire was put under my under trousers. I felt electric shocks. I screamed and promised to talk. I said I was a member of Youth League but I was told that I was talking nonsense. They beat me up with a stick.

I was taken out and went with an african detective to wash cars. When the white officers had finished tea, I was once more taken to the office. A sack was put over my head and face and wires were connected and this time I was made to squat and electric current was switched on. I was at last released from this ordeal, but my whole body was painful and my feet were swollen as I had been thrashed with a hose pipe and sticks on my feet and shoulders and also on my buttocks. On my buttocks some blisters came out. (There are some visible marks of burning on the buttocks and fingers on the accused. The trousers and pants show signs of scorching). I reported this to the magistrate. My throat was dry and I could not swallow anything.

On the 11th September, I was once more called. I was told that Luke Swart had spoken. I should also tell them about our sabotage activities. I did not make any admission.

On the 12th September I was told to admit that Luke Swart was going to send us to Tanganyika. I admitted under pressure of being thrashed. I also admitted that we were going to train how to fight. I was taken back to the cells.

On the 20th September, I was taken to one office. Told to undress and promised that if I didn't talk that day I would die. I was handcuffed and squatted and a stick was put between the arms and legs. Two chairs were placed apart and I was made to hand in between. Wires were switched on. I did not speak at all that day.

I was taken to the cells. On the 26th, I was taken back to Cape Town. No statements made and none signed. On the 6th Oct, I was taken to Bellville. Asked about sabotage at Beer Hall.

Koko was brought and he said he knew me through the organisation (unnamed). He said I was a branch member. He said Ngudlu had proposed my name that I could do sabotage.

I was thrashed and made to admit that I placed a bomb at Beer Hall on the 18th June and 30th June. I was asked with whom I was, I said with Ngudlu.

I was asked who the other people were who were taught how to use explosives. I said we were taught with Majodina, Nyombo, Luke Swart and I. Asked who taught us and I said I did not know him since I saw the man for the first time. I said it was an african. He spoke english and I did not know his name. Asked whether it was one of Kenyatta's people and I said I did not know those people.

Asked about Dennis Goldberg. I said I did not know him. I said ~~was~~ we were shown at James Boyesen at Rylands how to use explosives. I was taken to Rylands but I refused to put on a mask as suggested by detectives. I could not point at the place.

I was also taken to Desai's place but I could identify nothing. Boyesen was later arrested and a tape recorder was used as he was seated in front of the van whilst I was behind.

Later I was made to write what I had admitted, viz. that we were trained at Boyesen's place and that we went there twice. I also wrote that Luke Swart and I went to the beer hall and planted a bomb.

My political history was inquired into. I said I joined A.N.C. in 1959 under Jacob Mpenba at Bunga Square. I went home (Transkei) later in 1959 and when I returned in 1960 the organisation was banned.

I said I joined Youth League in 1961 under Charles Makohlisa. I said chairman was Mr. Kamlashe. I said the aim of Youth League was to organise youth to fight things like passes and permits and to make youth work and not stand idle at corners. I denied the suggestion that the aim was to recruit youth to fight against whites.

I was told that I should take this statement before a Magistrate because I might be a state witness, but they emphasised that I should make the statement of my own free will and I said I was not willing to go before a magistrate except when charged.

On the 18th October, I was taken to Worcester together with Mr. Kamalashe. At Worcester one de Villiers who had been interrogating me all alone said I should listen to what others say and should report to me. He gave me a 2/6 though I hadn't asked for it. Mr. Kamalashe was present when this money was given to me.

On another occasion de Villiers came with his superior and told me that I should make my statement before a magistrate. If I refused they would use Majodina. I was told that I would hang for this, but I refused to make the statement before a magistrate.

Majodina was brought before me and he denied knowledge of me. I was asked who he was and I said he was Majodina. He was then beaten up until he admitted that we were together at the place where we were trained as saboteurs. I said I did not know what we were being trained with but I saw ice and sugar.

On several occasions I was approached to make a statement before a magistrate so that I could be a state witness and save myself from the gallows but I persisted in saying that I could rather hang for what I said and not cause others to hang.

My statement was brought to me and I then signed it. I was taken to Bellville.

At Bellville too I was asked to make a statement before a magistrate and be a state witness but I refused. The officer promised to give me more electric shocks.

I was asked of the statement by Fetshane that I was taken by Luke Swart - I denied this. I was also asked about the burning of Matanzima's peoples' property. I denied this. Further asked about Unkhonto We Siswe and I said I knew nothing about this organization.

Something was read to me supposedly from Sondlo's statement that we made leaflets. I admitted this. I was shown a machine. I said it looked like it. I was taken back to the cell at Bellville.

Then on the 7th November, I was taken to court and charged with sabotage.

(Signed) JACKSON TAYO