

PROTOCOL 6 - LINKSY'S FAMILY
LINKSY - TORTURED IN DETENTION (VERBATIM DESCRIPTION)
LORNA - LINKSY'S MOTHER

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about your experience of being tortured in detention. Tell me what happened before and how this affected you during and after the incident.

LINKSY: I was still younger than I am now, very involved in mobilising the youth. I was a leader of a certain youth group called "Amabatho" and we formed street committees. These were community committees that dealt with people that didn't tow the line especially if there were guidelines on how the community had to act in certain instances.

RESEARCHER: What do you mean by towing the line?

LINKSY: For instance if we organized school and consumer boycotts, we expected all people to follow these instructions and those who deviated would be disciplined like throwing away the things they bought from the shops during the boycott. We even caned the pupils who went to school while there was a boycott. I was one of the organizers so the police arrested me in their raids with other comrades. We were detained but when we are in jail you are separated from others so I had a single cell.

RESEARCHER: And then?

LINKSY: Things got pretty bad. When I was interrogated, I was sjambokked with a black plastic tube in my body and legs several times. At times they would burn me with cigarettes in the soles of my feet, and I would scream on top of my voice. The police accused me of inciting others and causing anarchy in the community, and wanted me to tell them who was masterminding this as I was young. The moment I did not come up with any names, they kicked me, banged my head against the wall and threatened to shoot me. They continued to do so whenever they like and I was so stubborn prepared to die than yielding to their demands. Some

days, I would go without food as the food is terrible. I also kept worrying about my mother as I knew that she would be worried sick about my detention. At times police would tell me that they have seen my mother at home and told her that she will never see me again. This was frightening. I was not allowed visitation rights by my family and friends as I was in solitary confinement and went without a drop of water to bath myself for a month. I remained filthy and as a woman you feel that odour. One time the police told me that my mother had died, and I cried for a whole week and yet there was nothing like that. I was so vulnerable and this led me believing what they said, "Hayi angcolile kodwa amabhula, soze ndiwalibole" (Translated: "The boers are evil and I will never forget them").

I came out of prison after six months because the lawyers asked a bail on my behalf. I was thin as ever, to my surprise, other comrades arrested with me, were reported to have died in prison. Although I was thankful for escaping death, I grieved for my friends in the struggle.

I tell you, though, we won our case as comrades, one suffers deep scars from these experiences. My life was affected in some way because I wanted to forget all this but it still haunts me. Even in work-shops organised by our NGO's once topics like these are brought to the fore, I become stuck and tremble and wish that we should not talk about these.

Even with the TRC hearings, I didn't testify about this torture I submitted a statement. I felt that I didn't have strength to do it maybe you can best tell me if I need any psychological help.

RESEARCHER: I think you do - but I can supply you with a list of references.

LINKSY: Now, South Africa has changed, and maybe our struggle was not in vain. My mother in her prayers everyday does not forget to be thankful for my safety as she thought I would die in prison. I admire the people who testify in the TRC as their stories are being listened to by the whole

world, as this may ease the burden we have been carrying all these years.

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about your experience of being detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before and how this affected you during and after the incident.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

ESSENTIAL THEMES

1 I was still younger than I am now, very involved in mobilising the youth. I was a leader of a certain youth called "Amabutho" and we formed street committees. These were community committees that dealt with people who did not tow the line especially if there were guidelines on how the community had to act in certain instances.

Linksy explains her role in mobilizing a youth group called "Amabutho" which disciplined community people who transgressed.

RESEARCHER: What do you mean by towing the line?

2 For instance if we organised school and consumer boycotts, we expect-ed all people to follow these in-structions and those who deviated would be disciplined like throwing away all the things they bought from the shops during the boycott. We even caned the pupils who went to school while there was a boycott. I was one of the organizers so the police arrested me in their raids with other comrades. We were detained but when we were in jail you are separated from others so I had a single cell.

Linksy explains the disciplinary measures applied to those who didn't tow the line while relating circumstances surrounding her detention.

RESEARCHER: And then?

3 Things got pretty bad. When I was interrogated, I was sjambokked with a black plastic tube in my body and legs several times. At times these would burn me with cigarettes in the soles of my feet, and I would scream on top of my voice. The police accused me of inciting others and causing anarchy in the community and wanted me to tell them who was masterminding this as I was young. The moment I did not come up with any names, they kicked me, banged my head against the wall and threatened to shoot me. They continued to do so whenever they liked and I was so stubborn prepared to die than yielding to their demands.

Linksy details the experiences of torture in detention where she was implicated by police as causing trouble in the community, but she did not yield to the demands of the police as she was prepared to die.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

- 4 Somedays, I would go without food as the food is terrible. I also kept worrying about my mother as I knew that she would be worried sick about my detention. At times police would tell me that they have seen my mother and told her that she will never see me again. This was frightening. I was not allowed visitation rights by my family and friends as I was in solitary confinement and went without a drop of water to bath myself for a month. I remained filthy and as a woman you feel that odour. One time the police told me that my mother had died, and I cried for a whole week and yet there was nothing like that. I was so vulnerable and this led me believing what they said. "Hayi angcolile kodwa amabhulu soze ndinolibole" (translated: The boers are cunning, and I'll never forget them).
- 5 I came out of prison after six months because the lawyers asked a bail on my behalf. I was thin as ever, to my surprise, other comrades arrested with me were reported to have died in prison. Although I was thankful for escaping death I grieved for my friends in the struggle.
- 6 I tell you, though we won our case as comrades, one suffers deep scars from these experiences. My life was affected in some way because I wanted to forget all this but it still haunts me. Even in workshops organized by our NGO's once topics like these are brought to the fore, I become stuck and tremble and wish that we should not talk about these.
- 7 Even with the TRC hearings, I didn't testify about this torture but submitted a statement. I felt that I didn't have strength to do it, may be you can best tell me if I need any psychological help.

ESSENTIAL THEMES

Linksy explains the intensely horrifying tactics used to torture her while in prison. These resulted in her vulnerability which led her to believe the lies that the police told her, as she was terrified that she would never see her mother again. All these led to her perception that the police are evil.

When Linksy was released from prison, she discovered that some of her friends had died in prison and was saddened by these news.

Linksy emphasizes the effects of torture that have left her scarred. She also wishes to forget it as she experiences debilitating effects whenever they talk about them.

Linksy explains her experience of helplessness that made her submit a statement to the TRC rather than testifying. She wonders if this behaviour warrants therapeutic intervention.

RESEARCHER: I think you do but I can supply you with a list of reference.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

- 8 Now South Africa has changed, and may be our struggle was not in vain. My mother in her prayers everyday does not forget to be thankful for my safety as she thought I would die in prison. I am proud the people who testify in the TRC as their stories are being listened to by the whole world as this may ease the burdens we have been carrying all these years.

ESSENTIAL THEMES

Linksy perceives her struggle as a vehicle towards positive outlook while her mother is thankful of her safety and takes pride in those who have shown courage in sharing their pain with the world.

LORNA - LINKSY'S MOTHER

VERBATIM DESCRIPTION

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about your experience of having your daughter being detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before and how this affected you during and after the incident.

LORNA: "Mntanam" (my child) it's something that I don't want to talk about if possible. It reminds me of the terrible time we had as the family. I thought that God had cursed me and I pray that we never go back to those terrible times. I did not understand the younger peoples' actions well, but I was aware of Linksy's absence from home most of the time. She told me she was attending meetings every time. She did not tell me of her involvement in these groupings they had. But her brother told me that Linksy was involved in politics and I warned her that I didn't know anything about politics, so she better stop this nonsense.

One night I was awoken by heavy bangs on my door during the night, while preparing to open, the door was kicked open. Oh! it's the police, were already inside, pushing me aside, entering in room by room searching for Linksy. When I asked what they were doing and the warrant to search, they threatened to arrest me. I was scared to death, a lot of noise as my other children were crying, and the neighbours came to check what was happening. Outside my house it was just vans, surrounding the house, looking for one person. This was strange to me. They didn't find Linksy and I think she has a premonition because she

did not sleep at home that day. They left with a message, "Siyabuya", yaye sizakubamba next time", (We'll be back and we will² take you in next time").

Linksy was arrested two days later in another raid in one of her friends house. She stayed in prison for six months without bail. I didn't rest, it was living hell. The police would come and ransack my house searching for the guns they said were hidden by "Amabutho" group. At times they would tell me that I would never see my daughter again as she was the one responsible for chaos and politicizing other people in the community. I couldn't fight the law, I became helpless and prayed for a miracle to happen.

To tell you the honest truth, I never expected her to return alive. I feared more when some of her friends were reported dead in prison without valid explanations from the police. It was like living in a nightmare, I was even refused permission to see her, as I was told that she is in solitary confinement, so, no visitors allowed.

RESEARCHER: What happened then?

LORNA: When she was bailed out she was thin as ever. I cried for my child, sympathetic to her state but happy to see her alive. I think, though this had an effect on her. She would not want to talk about her detention at all and I understood that she had pain. Even when she was approached to testify in the TRC hearings, she only wrote down her statement and submitted it. I can see she wants to forget all but how do you just wash away a misdeed like this?

I know I want to continue my life by my mind revisits in thoughts about what occurred to us. I'm happy that she is out of prison as I thought that I would die before she is released. I have also taken strength from other horror stories which are worse than Linksy's as those parents are also

surviving.

RESEARCHER: I want you to tell me about your experience of having your daughter being detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before, and how this affected you during and after the incident.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

ESSENTIAL THEMES

1 Lorna: "Mntanam" (my child) it's something I don't want to talk about if possible. It reminds me of the terrible time we had as the family. I thought that God had cursed me and I pray that we never go back to those terrible times.

Lorna voices her reluctance to relive the terrible experiences of her family.

2 I did not understand the younger people's actions well, but I was a-ware of Linksy's absence from home most of the time. She told me she was attending meetings every time. She did not tell me of her involvement in these groupings they had. But her brother told me that Linksy was involved in politics and I warned her that I didn't know anything about politics, so she better stop this nonsense.

Lorna seems to have lacked awareness of her daughter's involvement in politics but tried to stop her when she discovered this.

3 One night I was awoken by bangs in my door during the night, while preparing to open, the door was kicked open. Oh! it's the police, were already inside, pushing me aside, entering in room by room searching for Linksy. When I asked what they were doing and the warrant to search they threatened to arrest me. I was scared to death, a lot of noise as my other children were crying and the neighbours came to check what was happen-ing. Outside my house, it was just vans, surrounding the house, looking for one person. This was strange to me. They didn't find M and I think she had a premonition because she did not sleep at home that day. They left with a message "siyabuya, yaye sizalubamba next time" (we will be back and we will take you in next time)

Lorna relates the threatening and terrifying experiences of harassment by police who came to search for her daughter who was away from home during this raid.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

ESSENTIAL THEMES

- 4 Linksy was arrested two days later in another raid in one of her friend's house. She stayed in prison for six months before her bail. I didn't rest, it was living hell. The police would come and ransack my house searching for guns they said were hidden by the "amabutho" group. At times they would tell me I would never see my daughter again as she was the one responsible for chaos and politicizing other people in the community. I couldn't fight the law, I became helpless and prayed for a miracle to happen..
- 5 To tell you the honest truth, I never expected her to return alive. I feared more when some of her friends were reported dead in prison without valid explanations from the police. It was like living in a nightmare, I was even refused permission to see her, as I was told that she is in solitary confinement, so no visitors allowed.

According to Lorna, when Linksy was arrested the police intensified harassment of her family causing helplessness.

Lorna never anticipated that Linksy would be back from prison as some of her friends died in detention.

RESEARCHER: What happened then?

- 6 When she was bailed out, she was thin as ever. I cried for my child, sympathetic to her state but happy to see her alive. I think though, this had an effect on her. She would not want to talk about her detention at all.
- 7 I understood that she had pain. Even when she was approached to testify in the TRC hearings, she only wrote down her statement and submitted it. I can see she wants to forget all but how do you just wash away a misdeed like this?
- 8 I know I want to continue my life but my mind revisits in thoughts about what occurred to us. I am happy that she is out of prison as I thought that I would die before she is re-leased. I have also taken strength from the horror stories which are worse than M's as those parents are also surviving.

Lorna was disturbed by Linksy's physical state when she was released from prison though she was happy to see her alive.

Lorna understood Linksy's need to repress all that had happened to her.

Although Lorna seems to want to live in the future she is reminded of the past experiences and takes strength from stories shared by other parents.

SITUATED STRUCTURE

LINKSY'S FAMILY

Although Linksy was an active participant in the struggle as a young teenager, it seems her mother was not aware of these activities. When she discovered her involvement, Lorna tried to prevent her daughter from continuing but in vain. This family realizes that it is in trouble when Linksy is detained. Her experiences of torture in detention resulted in her vulnerabilities as her emotions are aggravated also by police who lied that her mother is dead. She physically survives the vicious, humiliating tactics by police but sustains internal scars that are painful whenever mention of trauma is brought to the fore. Linksy's mother finds it difficult to cope with police harassment while Linksy is in detention, and her frightening experiences of her daughter's safety are worsened by death of other young people in detention. She lives in turmoil and anguish because she is helpless to fight the law. She continued praying for her daughter.

Although Linksy's mother is relieved when Linksy is released she is saddened by her physical appearance. She also learns of her need to repress the pain she endured in detention as Linksy won't share much of it. This is revealed when Linksy is invited to testify in the TRC about her experiences but opts to write a statement for submission instead of testifying. She seems to be wounded but to avoid hurt and disorganisation she represses all that happened.

Linksy's experiences and that of her family are relived when other similar stories of torture and detention are related, and this to Linksy and her family in some way has been a breakthrough towards healing.

PROTOCOL 7 - PANDORA'S FAMILY
PANDORA - WIFE DETAINED AND TORTURED IN PRISON
VERBATIM DESCRIPTION
PETE - PANDORA'S HUSBAND

RESEARCHER: I want you to tell me about your experiences of being detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before, and how this affected you during and after the incident.

PANDORA: I became involved indirectly because of the children. You see my two sons were very active students during the uprising of 1976 riots at schools, as they were members of students' organization. an illiterate mother, I never paid attention to what they did, as I could not follow the events from the newspapers as I am not educated. Things became worse when in 1976 school children were massacred in front of school gates by police and as parents we felt this was enough. As women and parents we took to the streets, protesting against the security police for killing children. My sons got lost during that same year and I was not sure whether they had ran away or were killed. We neve saw them again.

I became more angry, thinking that if the police didn't do what they did, my sons would be here. I joined the political group of women which supported me to press the police to look for my sons. My husband, as you see him, even today was already a TB sufferer, sickly, so he couldn't really go up and about looking for our sons.

I was detained under the state of emergency during the 1980's, as I was an active member of the women's group, and I stayed in prison for two years. It was very hard, but inside me I was determined as I felt guilty for letting my children to take up the struggle while I did nothing. I was terrorized and tortured in prison by the same police who are asking for amnesty today. The ridiculed me about my illiteracy, they used all sorts of fear tactics, like I will never see my husband again. Everyday I was interrogated and asked about the whereabouts of my two sons. I

became cheeky, and told the police that they knew better, and this angered them as they beat me up. They sjambokked me, sometimes stripped me naked in the presence of police males, suffocated me as well. I would scream on top of my voice too, as you know, we women can scream.

After the interrogation they took me to my cell where I would be left without water for days. It was a very difficult situation, but I became determined the more I thought about my missing sons.

I was released after two years imprisonment, and soon after this release I was hospitalized for eight months. The doctors said my nerves were affected as the whole body was aching. This became more hard for me as my husband whose health was worse could not be looked after by me. Instead he had to care for our children who also had disciplinary problems as they got involved in petty crimes like stealing from the shops in our communities. This was too much to take as I thought to myself if the police did not kill our children in 1976 I would not be in this situation.

After my release I thought I would be free from police harassment but this was the opposite. They came often, looking for my sons, with information that they know they're back in the country and are trained terrorists. This hurt a lot because both my husband and myself were longing for our children and we were clueless about this whereabouts.

RESEARCHER: And then?

PANDORA: We kept approaching the Commissioner of Police to look for them as we had reported this matter to them. It was only after thirteen years that we received a letter stating that one son was killed in a raid by South African Security Police in Maseru, while the other one died in the military camps in Angola. I was devastated. Their father's health deteriorated. I never thought he would even survive to see the freedom of elections in 1994. I cried until the tears were dry in my face, I felt emptiness in my heart.

How come? I asked myself several times but there were no answers. I demanded the political organisation they were fighting for, to bring their bodies home even if they were bones. I did not mind. What was important was to bury my children and be able to point to their graves. This did not happen until after 1992, and we were able to bury those bones side by side. By this time I was strong, strong for my husband who felt weak in health, also helpless and blaming himself for not fighting the regime.

At least I am relieved that I buried those remains and that makes one feel better than those parents who don't even know where the graves of their children are. No money can compensate for the losses we have experienced but I think it was appropriate for us to tell these stories through the commission. At least we can let go now and forgive those who are asking for amnesty for the tortures and killings but we cannot forget what happened.

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about the experience of being detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before and how this affected you during and after the incident.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

1 I became involved indirectly because of the children. You see, my two sons were very active students during the uprising of 1976 riots at schools, as they were members of students' organizations. As an illiterate mother, I never paid attention to what they did, as I could not follow the events from the newspapers as I am not educated. Things became worse when in 1976 school children were massacred in front of school gates by police and as parents we felt this was enough. As women and parents we took to the streets protesting against the security police for killing children. My sons got lost during the same year and I was not sure whether they had ran away or killed. We never saw them again.

ESSENTIAL THEMES

According to Pandora she became involved in political activities during 1976 when she witnessed school children being shot by police.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

2 I became more angry, thinking that if the police didn't do what they did, my sons would be here. I joined the political group of women which supported me to press the police to look for my sons. My husband, as you see him, even today, was already a TB sufferer, sickly, so he couldn't really go up and about looking for our sons.

3 I was detained under the state of emergency during the 1980's as I was an active member of a political womens' group, and I stayed in prison for two years.

4 It was very hard, but inside me I was determined as I felt guilty for letting my children to take up the struggle while I did nothing. I was terrorized and tortured in prison by the same police who are asking for amnesty today. They ridiculed me about my illiteracy, they used all sorts of fear tactics, like I will never see my husband again. Everyday I was interrogated and was asked about the whereabouts of my two sons. I became cheeky and told the police that they knew better and this angered them as they beat me up. They sjambokked me, some-times stripped me naked in the pre-sence of police males, suffocated me as well. I would scream on top of my voice too, as you know, we women can scream. After the interrogation they took me to my cell where I would be left without water for days. It was a very difficult situation, but I became determined the more I thought about my missing sons.

5 I was released after two years of imprisonment and soon after this release I was hospitalized for eight months. The doctors said my nerves were affected as the whole body was aching. This became more hard for me as my husband whose health was worse could not be looked after by me. Instead he had to care for our children who also had disciplinary problems as they got involved in petty crimes like stealing from the shops in our community. This was too much to take as I thought to myself if the police did not kill our children in 1976 I would not be in this situation.

ESSENTIAL THEMES

Pandora explains the rationale behind her joining womens' political organisation as she wanted support to look for her missing sons.

Pandora was detained in the 1980's for a period of two years.

Though determined with her struggle, Pandora experienced difficult conditions of prison as the police used all forms of torture to break her.

When Pandora was released from prison she became so sick that she was hospitalised while her ailing husband looked after their children. She also blames police for her painful experiences of having her other children involved in criminal activities.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

- 6 After my release I thought I would be free from police harassment but this was the opposite. They came often, looking for my sons, with information that they knew they're back in the country and are trained terrorists. This hurt a lot because both my husband were longing for our children and we were clueless about their whereabouts.

RESEARCHER: And then?

- 7 We kept approaching the Commissioner of Police to look for them as we had reported this matter to them. It was only after thirteen years that we received a letter stating that one son was killed in a raid by South African security police in Maseru, while the other one died in the military camps in Angola.
- 8 I was devastated. Their father's health deteriorated. I never thought he would even survive to see the freedom of elections in 1994. I cried until the tears were dry in my face, I felt emptiness in my heart. How come? I asked myself several times but there were no answers.
- 9 I demanded the political organisation they were fighting for to bring their bodies home, even if they were bones I didn't mind. What was important was to bury my children and be able to point to their graves. This did not happen until after 1992, and we were able to bury those bones side by side. By this time I was strong, strong for my husband who felt weak in health, also helpless and blaming himself for not fighting the regime.
- 10 At least I am relieved that I buried these remains and that makes me feel better than those parents who don't even know where the graves of their children are.

ESSENTIAL THEMES

Although Pandora was released from prison, police harassment still continued and this was experienced as painful by her family.

Pandora's enquiries from the Commissioner of Police about her missing sons proved fruitless. She learnt of their separate deaths after thirteen years.

Pandora talks about their devastation of her sons' death and their father's health deteriorated. She experienced emptiness.

Pandora asked the liberal movements to bring the remains of her sons to South Africa to be buried, and this request was successful.

Although Pandora was strong at this time her husband experienced a state of helplessness, blamed himself for not fighting against the regime.

Pandora felt relieved when she buried her sons herself as other parents have not achieved this.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

- 11 No money can compensate for the losses we have experienced but I think it was appropriate for us to tell these stories through the Commission. At least we can let go now and forgive those who are asking for Amnesty for the tortures and killings but we cannot forget what happened.

ESSENTIAL THEMES

Pandora explains that money cannot compensate for what they went through, but telling the stories was appropriate. Seemingly they are ready to let go and forgive but would not forget these experiences.

PETE - PANDORA'S HUSBAND

VERBATIM DESCRIPTION

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about the experience of having your wife detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before and how this affected you during and after the incident.

PETE: It is a difficult story and a painful one for me. My life was turned upside down within no time. My wife was outraged by the acts of the police in 1976 when they shot school children. It was an uprising as school children protested against Bantu Education. Our sons were amongst this lot, and we were certain they were going to be shot at as well. All the women in our communities joined forces and protested against this shooting, marched to the police station to hand over a memorandum to the head of security police to stop these killings. It is when my wife became active and joined the women's political group of that time. She ended up being detained with others during the unrest and was jailed for two solid years.

RESEARCHER: What happened to you?

PETE: I stayed at home by myself looking after the other children. I was sick on treatment. I asked one of our relatives to come and stay with us to play a role of being a mother to our children. By this time the realization that our two sons were missing became true. It was worrying, I feared for my wife's safety in jail, I knew she would not escape torture while detained.

It was also difficult to supervise or even discipline the younger ones at home. They took advantage of the situation, got involved in stealing from the shops. You know, all children require a mother's firm hand. I became helpless day by day not knowing what to do. Those days you even saw few friends visiting as people became afraid to be associated with us.

When my wife was released from jail, my health was deteriorating. While thinking that she was to nurse me, she was admitted to hospital. I think the cold cement conditions in jail affected her health. The police still continued to visit my home, looking for our missing sons, they just broke the doors, ransacked the house. Maybe they saw that I was already in my death bed so it would not help them to beat me up.

We only heard about the outcome of my sons towards the year that liberation movements were banned, that they both died long time ago. I was saddened by this, as you know, in our culture boys are to take care of the home if the father dies. Now, who would look after my kraal?

I also blamed myself for not taking part in this struggle as I had sacrificed my children now. I was happy when their remains were brought home to be buried by us. I felt bitter that day, hatred towards the whole apartheid regime that had placed all my family under this condition.

Even if I die now, I am relieved that their graves are here. My wife has never looked back, this incident made her to be much stronger and she tells me everyday that it is a conviction she will never forfeit.

I don't have much hope on the promises for compensation on victims. There are many of them. Where would this money come from? My only consolation is to rest in peace while my wife is nearer to me.

(Pete died beginning of 1998).

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about the experience of having your wife detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened, and how this affected you during and after the incident.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

ESSENTIAL THEMES

1 It is a difficult story and a painful one for me. My life was turned upside down within no time. My wife was outraged by the acts of the police 1976 when they shot school children. It was an uprising as school children protested against the Bantu Education. Our sons were amongst this lot, and we were certain that they were going to be shot at as well. All the women in our communities joined forces and protested against this shooting, marched to the police station to hand over memorandum to the head of security police to stop these killings. It is when my wife began active and joined the women's political group of that time. She ended up being detained with others during the unrest in the 1980's and was jailed for two solid years.

Pete explains his painful story that brought drastic changes to his life.

He talks in detail about the circumstances surrounding his wife's political activities which resulted in her detention of two years.

RESEARCHER: What happened to you?

2 I stayed at home by myself, looking after other children. I was sick on treatment. I asked one of our relatives to come and stay with us to play a role of being a mother to our children.

Pete explains how he arranged the role of a surrogate mother-relative to look after the children while his wife was detained.

3 By this time, the realization that our two sons were missing became true. It was worrying, I feared for my wife's safety in jail. I knew she would not escape torture while detained.

Pete lived in anguish about his missing sons and his wife's safety in detention.

4 It was also difficult to supervise or even discipline the younger ones at home. They took advantage of the situation, got involved in stealing from the shops. You know, all children require a mother's firm hand.

Pete explains the hardship of how his other children experienced disciplinary problems while his wife was detained.

5 I became helpless day by day not knowing what to do. Those days you even saw few friends, visiting as people became afraid to be associated with us.

Pete felt helpless and experienced alienation from friends who became scared to be associated with Pandora's family.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

ESSENTIAL THEMES

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| 6 | When my wife was released from jail, my health was deteriorating. While thinking that she was to nurse me, she was admitted to hospital. I think the cold cement conditions in jail affected her health. | According to Pete his health was deteriorating when his wife was released from jail. His wife was also hospitalized after this release. |
| 7 | The police still continued to visit my house, looking for our missing sons, they just broke the doors, ransacked the house. May be they saw that I was already in my death bed so it would not help them to beat me up. | Pete explains how the police continued to harass the family even after his wife's release from jail. |
| 8 | We only heard about the outcome of my sons towards the year that liberation movements were banned, that they both died long time ago. I was saddened by this, as you know, in our culture boys are to take care of the home if the father dies. Now, who would look after my kraal? | Pete expresses how he was saddened by the news of the death of his two missing sons. He was concerned about the caretaker of his kraal when he was no longer alive. |
| 9 | I also blamed myself for not taking part in this struggle as I had sacrificed my children now. I was happy when their remains were brought home to be buried by us. I felt bitter that day, hatred towards the whole apartheid regime that had placed all my family under this condition. | Pete blamed himself for his failure to participate in the struggle but happy when his sons' remains were brought home. Pete also felt bitter and hated the apartheid regime. |
| 10 | Even if I die now, I am relieved that the graves are here. My wife has never looked back, this incident made her to be much stronger and she tell me everyday that it is a conviction she will never forfeit. | According to Pete he is relieved that his sons' graves are at home. He testifies to his wife's strength in the struggle since this incident. |
| 11 | I don't have much hope on the promises for compensation on victims. There are many of them. Where would this money come from? My only consolation is to rest in peace while my wife is nearer to me. | Pete is not hopeful about reparation but is consoled by the fact that he will die peacefully. |

SITUATED STRUCTURE

PANDORA'S FAMILY

Both Pandora and Pete seem to have survived traumatic experiences differently during Pandora's struggle. When Pandora joined the political struggle, it was apparent that her husband's health was already failing. In spite of it, she was determined to continue struggling with other women, as her sons had already disappeared.

Her detention in prison for two years resulted in accumulated family's problems as her husband had to cope with raising other children with the help of a surrogate next of kin. The effects of an absent mother however became significant, when disciplinary problems manifested themselves in the unruly behaviour of the children who would steal and engage in petty crimes. In the meantime police continued to visit Pandora's husband to ask about the missing sons.

Pandora's horrific experiences of torture in detention fail to undermine her political will to continue her fight against the system. On her release from prison, health side effects warrant her being hospitalized. She becomes bitter about the situation as she attributes all that happened to her family, to the police who killed her children. While in hospital, Pandora worries more about her husband's ailing health.

This family's world became shattered on learning of the outcome of their sons' disappearance after thirteen years. As a mother, Pandora weeps until no more tears appear in her eyes while feeling empty. The lack of her husband's coping mechanisms with this news shows through his physical weakness. Both parents blame themselves for this loss and voice their anger and bitterness against the apartheid laws. Pete feels that he should have been more active in the struggle rather than letting his children take the risks.

They are consoled by their successive attempts to bring the remains of their sons from exile to bury them at home. This brings relief since other parents do not know where the remains of their children are.

This family is not hopeful about reparation effects because they understand that this mechanisms would never compensate for what they have gone through. Though they will not forget, they are open to forgiving others, especially those who violated the rights of their family and Pandora is relieved that her painful story was heard by an audience during the TRC sessions.

PROTOCOL 8 - GORDON'S FAMILY
GORDON - TORTURED IN PRISON (SENTENCED AT 22 YEARS)
RIETTA - GORDON'S WIFE
VERBATIM DESCRIPTION: GORDON

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about your experience of being detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before, how this affected you during and after the incident.

GORDON: I was a member of the liberation movement. As the movement we were fighting for equal rights and opposing vehemently the apartheid structures during those years. I was arrested for treason with others. This case took a long time and eventually I was sentenced to an effective twenty two years, which we reduced to fourteen years. So I stayed in jail a first time from 1963-1977. Even when I came back I was under house arrest because the 1976 uprising by the young people had already begun.

I worked underground now, but when my house arrest banning order was lifted in 1980 I worked freely as a member of the civic organisation in my community. My activities then, sent me back to jail in 1986 under the state of emergency act.

Here the torture became worse than digging the stone quarry in Robben Island which I had experienced before. Sjamboks, electric shocks all over the body, a mark over my head as the police did something called "helicopter training". It was a terrible, awful experience. I remember one policeman saying to us, "you'll get freedom over our dead bodies". While I was detained my house was burnt, and I suspect the police with the one, and my son was murdered in an acid attack by other unknown forces in our communities. I can go on, and on. My family was put through hell as a result my wife even today is being treated for nervous breakdown.

I came back from detention after two years having suffered stroke while in detention. As you see I'm on wheel chair. Now, I am like a child, being helped to dress and feed by my wife. It is so painful and discouraging especially if you know how you used to be before.

RESEARCHER: And now?

GORDON: I am helpless. I cannot look after my family as a husband and father. We are struggling to have food on the table, and the grant applications are taking a long time to be processed. I have even applied from the emergency relief fund that we were promised to receive as victims who testified in the TRC hearings but till today nothing has happened. What does one do in these conditions? You just wish sometimes you were dead.

Although I feel worthless now, I do not regret what I stood for, the struggle of equality for all in this country. Even during the TRC, I told the Commissioners to judge for themselves my state at present and think for a moment if the material (money) things could compensate for what I am going through. No, not all, but my dignity and integrity can be enhanced if those who tortured me can say to me, "we are sorry for what we did".

I think I would accept that apology, as the damage cannot be undone now. As I wake up everyday still breathing, I anticipate that the present government does deliver to the people, that's what we fought for. I keep hoping that in their delivery, they do not forget the casualties like me all over this country.

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about your experience of being detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before, how this affected you during and after the incident.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

ESSENTIAL THEMES

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|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | I was the member of the liberation movement. As the movement we were fighting for equal rights and opposing vehemently the apartheid structures during those years. I was arrested for treason with others. This case took a long time and eventually I was sentenced to an effective twenty two years, which was reduced for fourteen years. I stayed in jail for the first time from 1963-1977. Even when I came back I was under house arrest because the 1976 uprising by the young people had already begun. | Gordon speaks about his political activities which resulted in his being charged for treason that saw him sentenced to fourteen years of jail term. On his release he was banned under house arrest. |
| 2 | I worked underground now, but when my house arrest banning order was lifted in 1980, I worked freely as a member of the civic or-ganisation in my community. My active role then sent me back to jail in 1986 under the state of the emer-gency act. | Gordon's activities seem to have continued underground while he was banned, until 1980 when he took an activists role that lead to his detention in 1986. |
| 3 | Here the torture became worse than digging the stone quarry in Robben Island which I had experienced before. Sjamboks, electric shocks all over the body, a mark over my head as the police did something they called "helicopter training". I remember one policeman saying to us, "you'll get freedom over our dead bodies". | Gordon experienced torture in prison worse than what he went through in Robben Island. |
| 4 | While I was detained my house was burnt down, and I suspect the police, with this one, and my son was murdered in an acid attack by other unknown forces in our community. I can go on, and on. My family was put through hell as a result my wife even today is being treated for nervous breakdown. | Gordon relates the painful experiences of his family, i.e. his house burnt, his son murdered while Gordon was in detention. These led to his wife's nervous breakdown. |
| 5 | I came back from detention after two years, having suffered a stroke while in detention, as you see, I am in a wheelchair. Now, I am like a child, being helped to dress and feed by my wife. It is so painful and discouraging especially if you know how you were before. | When Gordon was released from prison after two years he was suffering from a stroke and is discouraged by his present reduced capabilities. |

RESEARCHER: And now?

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

ESSENTIAL THEMES

6 I am helpless, I cannot look after my family as a husband and father. We are struggling to have food on the table, and the grant applications are taking a long time to be processed. I have even applied from the emergency relief fund that we were promised to receive as victims who testified in the TRC hearings but till to-day nothing has happened. What does one do in these conditions? You just wish sometimes you were dead.

Gordon explains about his disillusionment with exhaustive attempts to provide basic needs for his family. At times he has wishes to be dead.

7 Although I feel worthless now, I do not regret what I stood for, the struggle of equality for all in this country. Even during the TRC, I told the Commissioners to judge for themselves my state at present and think for a moment if the material (money) things could compensate for what I am going through. No!, not all, but my dignity and integrity can be enhanced if those who tortured me can say to me, "we are sorry for what we did".

While Gordon feels worthless, he is not regretful of his beliefs. He states that his integrity and dignity can be enhanced if victimizers could show remorse about their deeds.

8 I think I would accept that apology, as the damage cannot be undone now. As I wake up everyday still breathing, I anticipate that the pre-sent government does deliver to the people, that's what we fought for. I keep hoping that in their delivery they do not forget the casualties like me all over this country.

While Gordon demonstrates willingness to accept the apology from the victimizers, his wishes are for good governance that will not forget them as casualties of the struggle.

RIETTA - GORDON'S WIFE

VERBATIM DESCRIPTION

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about the experience of having your husband detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before, how this affected you during and after the incident.

RIETTA: Would it suffice if I say to you it was the most terrible time of my life and my children? Really! I don't want to disappoint you by crying, as I cry when I think about this.

RESEARCHER: Yes and no!, as I would like you to tell me more about it.

RIETTA: Oh! I understand. My husband was involved in political movements. So he would not tell me about his activities but I sensed his movements. When I think about it now, and when he was jailed, may be he thought that I would inform the police of his activities when they came to look for him. When he was first sentenced for fourteen years, I became more educated about politics as I was in court to listen to his charges.

His first sentence shattered me as my children were younger but when he was released I thought this was over but the worst was to come. He became involved in community politics like civics. It was chaotic in the communities those days, the police detained him, labelling him as causing trouble in the community. He stayed for two years but seeing him today as he is I think the police succeeded in disrupting his life.

While he was detained, my son also as a young person became an active participant amongst the youth politics. He was killed in an acid attack by other opposing political groups in the community. Our house was burnt down. I was overwhelmed with fear, anticipating to be eliminated as well. I became depressed and the doctors said I was suffering from a nervous breakdown.

I had to find work, as a domestic worker. It was so humiliating to live on handouts from charity organisations, I mean as person you have your own pride. I was helpless, really helpless! (crying).

When my husband was released after two years he came back paralysed one side. This was devastating. How am I going to nurse him while I have to work? I sought help from welfare offices, I tell you I have filled in hundreds of forms till to date, no response. It's so frustrating. Also after his testimony in the TRC, we were advised to apply for an emergency relief fund set up for victims. He have had no response. We survive because there are still good people who share our pain, as they open their hearts and give us what they can offer. But, I tell you, even

that aches me inside as I feel we should be supporting ourselves if the circumstances of this country were otherwise.

My children do struggle at school. Uniforms are never bought in time and even the school books. It is so hard but they understand their home circumstances now as they are growing older.

As you see now, my husband is inactive on a wheelchair. Even if he has to attend the clinic, I have to be around to push his wheelchair. I see that he is frustrated at times by all this but what can we do? "Kuthina masixolele ke, ukuze eli lizwe limanyane". Nathi siyazama, kodwa yona imeko yethu imbi". (It is said we must forgive so that there is reconciliation in this country, we are trying though our situation is bad).

I have a hope that as the time goes on, becoming used to our situation and living conditions, the pain will be eased day by day and within our hearts will find forgiveness.

RESEARCHER: I would like you to tell me about the experience of having your husband detained and tortured in prison. Tell me what happened before, how this affected you during and after the incident.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

- 1 Would it suffice if I say to you it was the most terrible time of my life and children? Really! I don't want to disappoint you by crying, as I cry when I think about this

ESSENTIAL THEMES

Rietta expresses her reluctance to relive her past experiences of her husband's torture in prison.

RESEARCHER: Yes and no, as I would like you to tell me more about it.

- 2 Oh! I understand. My husband was involved in political movements. So he would not tell me about his activities but I sensed his movements. When I think about it now, and when he was jailed, maybe he thought that I would inform the police of his activities when they came to look for him. When he was first sentenced for fourteen years, I became more educated about politics as I was in court to listen to his charges.

Although Rietta experienced exclusion as a confidante in her husbands' activities she seems to have been aware of them. She understands this stance as her husbands' protective role from the police who would harass her.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

ESSENTIAL THEMES

- 3 His first sentence shattered me as my children were younger but when he was released I thought this was over but the worst was to come. He became involved in community politics like civics. It was chaotic in the communities those days, the police detained him, labelling him as causing trouble in the community. He stayed for two years, but seeing him today as he is, I think the police succeeded in disrupting his life.
- 4 While he was detained, my son also as a young person became an active participant amongst the youth politics. He was killed in an acid attack by other opposing political groups in the community. Our house was burnt down. I was overwhelmed with fear, anticipating to be eliminated as well. I became depressed and the doctors said I was suffering from a nervous breakdown.
- 5 I had to find work, as a domestic worker. It was so humiliating to live on handouts from charity organisations, I mean, as person you have your own pride. I was helpless, really, helpless (crying).
- 6 When my husband was released after two years, he came back paralysed one side. How am I going to nurse him while I have to work? I sought help from welfare offices, I tell you I have filled in hundreds of forms till to date, no response. It's so frustrating.
- 7 We survive because there are still good people who share our pain, as they open their hearts and give us what they can offer. But, I tell you, even that aches me inside as I feel we would be supporting ourselves if the circumstances of this country were otherwise.
- 8 My children do struggle at school. Uniforms are never bought in time and even the school books. It is so hard but they understand their home circumstances now as they are growing older.

According to Rietta she was shattered by her husbands' first prison sentence. She also believes the second detention destroyed her husband's life.

Rietta explains her feelings of being overwhelmed with fear of death as both her house was burnt and her son murdered while her husband is detained.

Rietta relates the humiliating experiences of surviving by receiving handouts while working as a domestic, resulting in a state of helplessness (crying).

During her husband's release after two years, Rietta was faced with uncertainty about nursing him as a stroke sufferer or supporting the family.

Rietta testifies to their survival with help from people with good hearts while blaming the apartheid regime for their situation.

Rietta appreciates her childrens' understanding of their state though they struggle to meet school requirements.

NATURAL MEANING UNITS

- 9 As you see now, my husband is inactive on a wheelchair. Even if he has to attend the clinic, I have to be around to push him around. I see that he is frustrated at times by all this, but what can we do? "Kuthiwa masixolele ke, ukuze elilizwe limanyane". Nathi siyazama, kodwa yona imeko yethu imbi". (It is said we must forgive so that there is reconciliation in this country, we are trying though our situation is bad).
- 10 I have a hope that as time goes on, becoming accustomed to our situation and living conditions, the pain will be eased day by day and within our heart will find forgiveness.

ESSENTIAL THEMES

Rietta seems to be concerned about her husband's frustration about being in a wheelchair but hopeful about forgiveness in the near future.

Rietta hopes to derive faith of forgiveness from the daily desensitization experiences of their situation.

SITUATED STRUCTURE

GORDON'S FAMILY

It appears that both Gordon and Rietta are not articulate about the fourteen-year sentence passed on Gordon before his second detention during the 1980s. Though Gordon's wife was overwhelmed by this experience, its impact seems to have had moderate effects.

Gordon also seems to have experienced more severe torture in prison during the recent detention of 1980s than his earlier imprisonment in Robben Island. His family also survived hazardous experiences as both his house was destroyed by fire and his son murdered while he was in detention. All these culminated in Rietta's fear for her own life.

His humiliating experiences of how his family had to survive on handouts from charity, are noticeable when he relates the painful story during the interaction. It is apparent that the aftermath of these incidents left the family more helpless and worthless of living a meaningful life.

Gordon's release from detention, with complications of being a stroke sufferer in a wheelchair, while his wife was on continuous medication for nervous breakdown is a reality that this family is confronted with. All these seem to deplete of their coping mechanisms more than ever before.

This family is uncertain about the means to survive as applications for disability grants have proved frustrating. However, the community support and network for satisfaction of basic needs is appreciated by both Gordon and Rietta, though it destroys the sense of their human pride. Gordon feels worthless about his limited capabilities and his wife senses his frustrations.

The family believes that they are capable of reaching a level of readiness to forgive their tormentors in order to promote reconciliation. In addition, Gordon's hopes lie in the good governance which will remember all victims of the political struggle.