

**PROTOCOL 9 - RICKIE'S FAMILY**  
**RICKIE - TORTURED IN DETENTION**  
**ROSA - RICKIE'S ELDER SISTER**  
**VERBATIM DESCRIPTION**

**RESEARCHER:** *I want 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.*

**RICKIE:** My detention took place during 1985-86 unrest which claimed innocent lives in our area. There was a feud between political groups or organisations and as young men in our community were active in guarding the house of our president of the organisation. It was a routine to do this as we feared that it would be attacked by a rival group. I was arrested and charged with intimidation. I was sentenced to eight years imprisonment. I became so confused and frightened as I thought to myself this was harsh.

The prison life started pretty bad. In fact during the first week, I thought I would die before the first month has ended. The inmates were rough, as soon as I was locked in the cells. I had to fight in order to survive amongst other prisoners while I faced beatings from the police. The police used all sorts of torture, to make us feel that we were not in our homes. Beatings, electric shocks, stripped naked to stand in a cold shower, what am I counting? It was terrible. Even now I'm being treated by a psychiatrist as this played on my emotions. I had palpitations on my chest all the time fearing to die in prison.

While I was there, my younger brother died through a necklace, killed by others in the community. I was devastated, he did not know anything about politics. I felt it was better for me to die in his place, I was angry towards what was happening during those times, I still don't understand why he was killed.

When I was released after five years for good behaviour in jail, I wanted to investigate his death but was scared at the same time as sporadic incidents of violence were still visible. I think that's what concerns me, what's contributing to my sickness is the thought that he died as an innocent victim.

Both my parents died while I was serving this sentence. I live with my elder sister now who works and taking care of my parents' home. I am working and independent enough to help myself, but the thoughts of how my parents could have been unhappy about my imprisonment and the death of their last born haunt me everyday.

I've testified in the TRC, and I've pleaded with this body to investigate the circumstances surrounding my brothers' death. I hope this comes true and I want those who committed this barbaric act to be brought to book. I'll be relieved if this can happen.

## RESEARCHER

I want 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

- 1 My detention took place during 1985-86 unrest which claimed innocent lives in our area. There was a feud between political groups or organisations and as young men in our community were active in guarding the house of our president of the organisation. It was a routine to do this, as we feared that it would be attacked by a rival group. I was arrested and charged with intimidation. I was sentenced to eight years imprisonment.
- 2 I became so confused and frightened as I thought to myself this was harsh.
- 3 The prison life started pretty bad, in fact during the first week I thought I would die before the first month has ended. The inmates were rough, as soon as I was locked in the cells, I had to fight in order to survive amongst other prisoners while I faced beatings from the police.

## ESSENTIAL THEMES

- Rickie relates circumstances surrounding his detention and eight years imprisonment.
- Rickie seemingly experienced feelings of fear and confusion of his harsh sentence.
- Rickie's experience of prison life seems to be that of the survival of the fittest as he had to fight two antagonistic forces.

**NATURAL MEANING UNITS**

**ESSENTIAL THEMES**

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 4  | The police used all sorts of torture, to make us feel that we were not in our homes. Beatings, electric shocks, stripped naked to stand in a cold shower, what am I counting? It was terrible. Even now I am being treated by a psychiatrist as this played on my emotions. I had palpitations on my chest all the time fearing to die in prison. | Rickie gives an account of all forms of torture he encountered in prison which resulted in this emotional instability. He says this has necessitated psychiatric intervention. |
| 5  | While I was there, my younger brother died through a necklace killed by others in the community. I was devastated, he did not know anything about politics.   | Rickie becomes devastated when he learns of his younger brother's death through a necklace.  |
| 6  | I felt it was better for me to die in his place, I was angry towards what was happening during those times, I still don't understand why he was killed.   | Rickie expresses his feelings of anger and lack of understanding of his brother's senseless murder.  |
| 7  | When I was released after five years for good behaviour in jail, I wanted to investigate his death but was scared at the same time as sporadic incidents of violence were still visible.  | Rickie experiences ambivalent feelings about finding out the cause of death of his brother due to residual violent incidents.  |
| 8  | I think that's what concerns me, what's contributing to my illness is the thought that he died as an innocent victim.   | Rickie seems to understand his source of his psychiatric illness, and voices his loss of parents while in prison.  |
| 9  | Both my parents died while I was serving this sentence. I live with my elder sister now who works and taking care of the parents' home.   | Rickie whose parents died while he was in prison lives with his sister at their parents' home.   |
| 10 | I am working and independent enough to help myself, but the thoughts of how my parents could have been unhappy about my imprisonment and the death of their last born haunt me everyday.  | Rickie seems to be haunted by his parents' inauthentic situation of the loss of their son through death and his imprisonment.  |
| 11 | I've testified in the TRC and I've pleaded with this body to investigate the circumstances surrounding my brother's death. I hope this comes true and I want those who committed this barbaric act to be brought to book. I will be relieved if this can happen.  | Rickie seems to be hopeful of the TRC's investigation to shed light of his brother's death.  |

**ROSA - RICKIE'S SISTER**  
**VERBATIM DESCRIPTION**

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

**ROSA:** I think their problems with other young activists began when there was an unrest in our communities. Not only the police were after them but feuds with other political organisations were rife. I remember that police would come looking for him while he was on guard duty, looking after some political figures' house. He was arrested for incitement and intimidation and was sentenced to eight years.

This became a tearful day for all of us at home. My parents were old, and I watched them suffering in silence. They would not normally talk about this or their pain, but when they prayed, their souls were indeed troubled. While Rickie was still in prison, we had another tragedy at home, as my other brother younger than Rickie, was necklaced by other comrades. We were called to that scene of horror, that remains indelible in my mind even today. To see you own flesh and blood in ashes! (shaking). I was so helpless, I cried wishing to die myself. Just think about it yourself! It was so devastating as he never knew anything about politics nor the feud between organisations.

We were overcome by grief and my parents find it difficult to forget this experience. We feared how we were to tell these news to Rickie in prison, and he went berserk. He had to be treated in hospital for some days. It was hard. He is still nervous today but on treatment from a psychiatrist.

This changed my parents' physical outlook completely. I watched them deteriorating, forgetful about everything, even forgetting our names as their children at times. They died one month apart from each other while Rickie was still doing his time in prison. I consoled myself by accepting

their death as being better than to live suffering.

**RESEARCHER:** And you?

**ROSA:** I have had my ebbs and flows. It has not been easy. I am mistrustful of other people, keep on playing safe, watchful as if I'm to be attacked. When Rickie was released from prison, he still cried a lot. One never think these things could happen to him/her when one hears about them at a distance but they do. Both myself and Rickie are there for each other, we think of ourselves as surviving orphans. Rickie is troubled though by the fact that he never got a chance to say 'good-bye' to his younger brother and our parents.

We just want to be left alone, and we resent people pitying us, rather they should genuinely share our pain.

**RESEARCHER:** I want you to tell me about your experience of having your brother 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 think their problems with other young activists began when there was an unrest in our communities. Not only the police were after them, but feuds with other political organisations were rife. I remember that police would come looking for him while he was on guard duty, looking after some political figures' house. He was arrested for incitement and intimidation, and was sentenced to eight years.
- 2 This became a tearful day for all of us at home. My parents were old, and I watched them suffering in silence. They would not normally talk about his or their pain, but when they prayed, their souls were indeed troubled.

Rickie's sister explains the circumstances surrounding Rickie's arrest which resulted in his eight years imprisonment.

According to Rosa, the whole family was troubled by Rickie's imprisonment.

**NATURAL MEANING UNITS**

- 3 While Rickie still in prison, we had another tragedy at home, as my other brother younger than Rickie was necklaced by other comrades. We were called to that scene of horror, that remains indelible in my mind even today. To see you own flesh and blood in ashes! (shaking). I was so helpless, I cried, wishing to die myself. Just think about it yourself. It was so devastating as he never knew anything about politics nor the feud between organisations.
- 4 We were overcome by grief and my parents find it difficult to forget this. We feared, how we were to tell these news to Rickie in prison, and he went berserk. He had to be treated in hospital for some days. It was hard. He is still nervous today but on treatment from a psychiatrist.
- 5 This changed my parents' physical outlook completely. I watched them deteriorating, forgetful about everything, even forgetting our names as their children at times. They died one month apart from each other while Rickie was still doing his time in prison. I consoled myself by accepting their death as being better than to life suffering.

**RESEARCHER:** And then?

- 6 I have had my ebbs and flows. It has not been easy. I am mistrustful of other people, keep on playing safe, watchful as if I am to be attacked. When Rickie was re-leased from prison, he still cried a lot. One never think these things could happen to him/her when one hears about them at a distance but they do.
- 7 Both myself and Rickie are there for each other, we think of ourselves as surviving orphans. Rickie is troubled though by the fact that he never got a change to say 'good-bye' to his younger brother and our parents.
- 8 We just want to be left alone and we resent people pitying us, rather they should genuinely share our pain.

**ESSENTIAL THEMES**

While Rickie is in prison, his younger brother dies in a necklaced situation, and this tragedy leaves the family devastated.

Rosa states their difficulty in breaking the bad news to Rickie who later suffered from a nervous breakdown on hearing the bad news about the loss of his brother.

According to Rosa these events experienced by the family affected their parents who later died a month apart from each other.

Rosa believes that she has become paranoid since these events occurred in her family.

Both Rosa and Rickie are optimistic about surviving though Rickie is troubled by not having been able to bid farewell to his kin before they died.

According to Rosa, their wish is for those concerned to be empathic towards them rather than being sympathetic.

**SITUATED STRUCTURE**  
**RICKIE'S FAMILY**

Rickie's family seems to have suffered feelings of overwhelmness by the tragic incidents that befell their family members. Although the family viewed Rickie's imprisonment of eight years as loss, the intensity of their grief was further aggravated when the younger child (Rickie's younger brother) died in a horrific manner called 'necklacing'.

It is apparent that this becomes a painful turning point for their older parents whose physical health is observed as deteriorating over time by Rosa until they died. Though released from prison Rickie is fearful of conducting investigations of his brother's death and thrusts this responsibility on the TRC.

While Rosa has to cope with indelible memories of her younger brother's death, Rickie blames his silence and his anxiety disorder on the experiences he was subjected to in prison. Both siblings have a positive attitude of their survival, enhanced by 'being there for each other'. According to them, they would rather benefit from empathic actions of those who want to share their pain than those who want to sympathize with them.

**PROTOCOL 10 - ZELDA'S FAMILY**  
**ZELDA - WIFE OF HUSBAND ABDUCTED AND DIED IN DETENTION**  
**TERRENCE - ZELDA'S SON**  
**VERBATIM DESCRIPTION**

**RESEARCHER:** I want you to tell me about your experience of having your husband disappear and his subsequent death in prison. Tell me what happened, how it affected you and what you felt during and after the incident.

**ZELDA:** Well I can say that I noticed during those times my husband was involved in politics. He did not tell me of this involvement. Maybe he feared that I would tell the police when they came to look for him as I was not politically aware at the time. The police also came on and off into our house, to interrogate him about his political movements. At his place of employment, he was retrenched as his bosses complained of his activities which would lead workers to protest against management.

In May 1985, while working at the offices of the civic organization, one of his compatriots fetched my husband. He informed my husband that they had to fetch a guest who visited their offices that day. The guest was assumed to be from outside this country. He came home to tell me of their departure, but they were never seen till today.

**RESEARCHER:** And then, what happened?

**ZELDA:** I became unhappy and uncertain of what had happened. At first I thought that they were arrested. It was unsettling in our communities those days as people were also killed in political feuds. I became frightened also of those acts, thinking that they might have been assassinated.

Due to the unrest situation, the comrades from his organization decided to come to my house and guard it. They feared that we might be killed as the feud between political organizations was intense. This created more trouble for me as the comrades without my awareness brought



guns, petrol bombs and hand grenades to fight whatever came their way. I didn't sleep at home most of the times.

The police raided my house and the confrontation between them and the comrades ensued. The police found all these grenades, petrol bombs etc and also arrested me. They detained me for a week and while in detention, used all the types of swearing words, sjambokking me, threatening me of not getting out of prison alive. It was the most humiliating experience of my life. I was released on bail after a week and my case postponed for a month.

I decided to look for my husband with other family members of my husbands' compatriots joined in the search. We visited all police cells, prisons, mortuaries in the country but there was not sign nor trace of them. My fears of his possible death grew more. False information by certain witnesses who claimed to have seen them in one of the police stations made me helpless. I filed a case of a missing person via the police and the court case took two solid years. Eventually, the court found nobody responsible for his disappearance. This was very upsetting as I felt no confidence on the justice system. I mean they didn't try enough to follow the clues of his disappearance. In fact, they did nothing.

I was angry towards the political organization which he belonged to, angry towards the police and the whole system. Here I was, having to raise two sons, who didn't understand what had happened. It was difficult enough to explain all this, and their questions about their father caused me to cry every time these questions were asked.

My life turned into misery. Bear in mind, my husband disappeared while I was recovering from severe burns of my body from the face to the abdomen as the gas refrigerator had exploded while I was cleaning it. Physically, I was still weak, not working, nobody to support us. It was and still is humiliating even today to live only on handouts from the kind people or charity organizations. It destroys one's pride but what can I

do? I couldn't even find domestic employment. Only a person who had travelled the same path as I, would understand what type of life I am talking about.

My pain and sorrow became worse when my eldest son was stabbed to death in the township. He was about eighteen years old during the time of his death. I blamed this on my husband's absence as he would be there to be a role model to his son. I became so sick, helpless and bitter inside. Only God knows how I survived. I don't go to church but I prayed hard during this time.

It took ten years to know about the outcome of my husband's disappearance. Mr X from the police detailed in a conversation with journalists how they killed my husband together with his two compatriots. This was published in all the papers. It was shocking!, devastating to read those newspaper. I cried bitterly, the grief was too much to bear and I was admitted to hospital. My youngest son and the only one left with me as a family failed to understand all this. He has a vivid memory of his father. I thought, my God!, how am I to educate this child while I am struggling like this?

The TRC events followed this information and I had to testify about my husband's disappearance. It was a relief to share my story with others how I have survived till today. I was not impressed by the Amnesty applicants as I thought that they're lying about the manner in which they disposed my husband's ashes after killing him. Even today, I do believe that his body is buried somewhere.

Part of me is grateful to the TRC for letting me to testify and bringing the amnesty applicants to shed light on this mystery disappearance, but unhappy about the fact that nothing is done by this government to help me survive. I asked the TRC to investigate. It will help me to bury those bones as I feel an incomplete sense of mourning as I didn't bury him.

I have trusted my faith with God who has been with me all this time. He is the one who will guide me to bring up and educate my son. My life though will never be the same without my husband and my eldest son who died. If the TRC can help with some fund, I'll try and set up a small vegetable rack in front of my yard and sell them so that we have a plate of food on the table. That wish might be realized longer than I need but I have to be patient. Because I believe in peace, I have even forgiven those who killed my husband as I would not be able to go on if I hold a grudge against them.

**RESEARCHER:** I want you to tell me about your experience of having your husband disappear and his subsequent death in prison. Tell me what happened, how it affected you and what you felt during and after the incident.

**NATURAL MEANING UNITS**

1 Well I can say that I noticed during those times my husband was involved in politics. He did not tell me of this involvement. Maybe he feared that I would tell the police when they came to look for him as I was not politically aware at the time. The police also came on and off into our house, to interrogate him about his political movements. At his place of employment, he was retrenched as his bosses complained of his activities which would lead workers to protest against management

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**ESSENTIAL THEMES**

Zelda explains how her husband was involved in political activities.

Zelda relates the events surrounding her husband's disappearance.

It seems Zelda became unhappy, uncertain and fearful about her husband's disappearance as she thought of the possibility of being assassinated.

**NATURAL MEANING UNITS**

- 4 Due to the unrest situation the comrades from his organization decided to come to my house and guard it. They feared that we might be killed as the feud between political organization was intense. This created more trouble for me as the comrades without my awareness brought guns, petrol bombs and hand grenades to fight whoever came their way. I didn't sleep at home most of the times to escape with my children.
  
- 5 The police raided my house and the confrontation between them and the police ensued. The police found all these grenades, petrol bombs etc and also arrested me. They detained me for a week and while in detention used all the types of swearing words, sjambokking me, threatening me of not getting out of prison alive. It was the most humiliating experience of my life. I was released on bail after a week and my case was postponed for a week.
  
- 6 I decided to look for my husband and other family members of my husband's compatriots joined me in the search. We visited all police cells, prisons, mortuaries in the country but there was no trace of them. My fears of his possible death grew more. False information by certain witnesses who claimed to have seen them in one of the police stations made me helpless.
  
- 7 I filed a case of a missing person via the police and the court case took two solid years. Eventually the court found nobody responsible for his disappearance. This was very upsetting as I felt no confidence on the justice system. I mean they didn't try enough to follow the clues of his disappearance. In fact they did nothing.
  
- 8 I was angry towards the political organization which he belonged to, angry towards the police and the whole system. Here I was, having to raise two sons, who didn't understand what had happened. It was difficult enough to explain all this, and their questions about their father caused me to cry every time these questions were asked.

**ESSENTIAL THEMES**

Zelda believes that more trouble for her family was created by the comrades who came to protect her house as they brought along weapons.

When police searched Zelda's house, the clash between the police and the comrades resulted in Zelda's arrest and detention. Zelda felt humiliated by these experiences.

Zelda's search of her husband proved futile and her fears about his death became intense. Her feelings of helplessness were induced more by false information.

Zelda seems to have been upset by the findings of the court about her husband's disappearance. As such, she expresses a motion of no confidence in the justice system.

It seems Zelda's anger was directed towards all, mostly provoked by the difficulties she faced in bringing up her two sons.

**NATURAL MEANING UNITS**

9 My life turned into misery. Bear in mind, my husband disappeared while I was recovering from severe burns of my body from the face to the abdomen as the gas refrigerator had exploded while I was cleaning it. Physically, I was still weak, not working, nobody to support us. It was and still is, humiliating, even today to live only on handouts from the kind people or charity organizations. It destroys one's pride but what can I do? I couldn't even find domestic employment. Only a person who has travelled the same path as I, would understand what type of life I am talking about.

10 My pain and sorrow became worse when my eldest son was stabbed to death in the township. He was about eighteen years old during the time of his death. I blamed this on my husband's absence as he would be there to be a role model to his son. I became so sick, helpless and bitter inside. Only God knows how I survived. I didn't go to church but I prayed hard during this time.

11 It took ten years to know about the outcome of my husband's disappearance. Mr Skeels from the police detailed in a conversation with journalists how they killed my husband together with his two compatriots. This was published in all the papers. It was hocking!, devastating to read those newspapers. I cried bitterly, the grief was too much to bear and I was admitted to a hospital. My youngest son and the only one left with me as a family failed to understand all this. He has a vivid memory of his father. I thought, my God!, how am I to educate this child while I am struggling like this?

12 The TRC events followed this information and I had to testify about my husband's disappearance. It was a relief to share my soul with others how I have survived till today. I was not impressed by the amnesty applicants as I thought that they're lying about the manner in which they disposed my husband's ashes after killing him. Even today, I do believe that his body is buried somewhere.

**ESSENTIAL THEMES**

Zelda explains her life experiences as that of misery which can only be understood by those with similar experiences.

It seems Zelda's state of sorrow was worsened by her eldest son's death as a result of the township acts of violence. She regretted her husband's disappearance and attributes her survival to her prayers to God.

Zelda seems to be overwhelmed by grief when the knowledge about her husband's disappearance is revealed. She is concerned about her poor living which might impact on her son's education.

Zelda appears to be relieved by her participation in sharing part of her soul with others during her TRC testimony. However, she disbelieves the amnesty applicants with regards to her husband's remains.

**NATURAL MEANING UNITS**

**ESSENTIAL THEMES**

13 Part of me is grateful to the TRC for letting me to testify and binging the amnesty applicants to shed light on this mystery disappearance, but unhappy about the fact that nothing is done by this government to help me survive. I asked the TRC to investigate my husband's remains. It will help me to bury those bones as I feel an incomplete sense of mourning as I didn't bury him.

Zelda appreciates the work of the TRC as the evidence regarding her husband's disappearance surfaced but she is sceptical about the government's help towards families.

14 I have trusted all my faith with God who has been with me all this time. He is the one who will guide me to bring up and educate my son.

Zelda finds a spiritual meaning and explanation to her will to educate her son.

My life though will never be the same again without my husband and my eldest son who died. If the TRC can help with some fund, I'll try and set up a small vegetables' rack in front of my yard and sell them so that we have a plate of food on the table. That wish might be realized longer that I need but I have to be patient. Because I believe in peace, I have forgiven those who killed my husband as I would not be able to go on if I hold a grudge against them.

Zelda acknowledges a different life style without her members of the family who died but positive about going on with her life.

**VERBATIM DESCRIPTION**

**TERRENCE - ZELDA'S SON (16 YEARS)**

**RESEARCHER:** I want you to tell me about your experience of having your father disappear and his subsequent death in prison. Tell me what happened, how if affected you and what you felt during and after the incident.

**TERRENCE:** Ma (mother), I think I would be telling lies if I say to you I know what happened. I was very young during this time. My brother who died in 1996 would be able to tell you the story than me. I have read and also heard about the events surrounding my father's death.

I do remember though, my mother hiding us from the police when I was young. We would sleep in neighbours' houses. We did not know nor

understand what was happening.

Now that I am older and at high school, I worry a lot when my mother cannot afford my school fees or uniforms and books. I feel the absence of my father very much. Sometimes I lie awake the whole night dreaming about how I will be able to help my mother, worse if I do not finish school. It is very hard. It was worse when my brother was stabbed to death. I wanted to die myself. We were so close. He was my role model too, very neat and energetic. He was always sensitive to our needs at home. I cursed the day of his death, I curse the township life which contributed to the hooliganism that took my brother away from us.

I have got to grips of what happened to my father as I listened to my mother's testimony during the TRC. I felt pain inside, this affected my school work, as I failed my examinations. My class teacher consoled me when I explained my concerns. At least things are improving for me at school now. I can forgive the police who killed my father but they have to tell us the truth about his whereabouts of his remains. I don't believe this story they are telling us now.

I think the TRC has done a good job by organising that these police come forward to give us this clue. Not only for me and my mother but for others as well in this country. I hope I can have money to study and finish school so that I help my mother who is struggling to make ends meet. I'm having my hopes on the compensation the TRC promised my mother, but the question is when will that happen? My dad would have loved to see me studying and become an important person. I'll work hard to make him proud wherever he is.

**RESEARCHER:** I want you to tell me about your experience of having your father disappear and his subsequent death in prison. Tell me what happened, how it affected you and what you felt during and after the incident.

**NATURAL MEANING UNITS**

- 1 Mama! (mother) I think I would be telling lies if I say to you I know what happened. I was very young during this time. My brother who died in 1996 would be able to tell you the story than me. I have read and also heard about the events surrounding my father's death. I do remember though, my mother hiding us from the police when I was young. We would sleep in neighbours' houses. We did not know or understand what was happening.
- 2 Now that I am older and at high school, I worry a lot when my mother cannot afford my school fees or uniforms and books. I feel the absence of my father very much. Sometimes I lie awake the whole night dreaming about how I will be able to help my mother, worse if I do not finish school. It is very hard.
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- 4 I have got grips of what happened to my father as I listened to my mother's testimony during the TRC. I felt pain inside, this affected my school work as I failed my examinations. My class teacher consoled me when I explained my concerns.
- 5 At least things are improving for me at school now. I can forgive the police who killed my father but they have to tell the truth about the whereabouts of his remains. I do not believe this story they are telling us now.
- 6 I think the TRC has done a good job by organizing that the police come forward to give us this clue. Not only for me and my mother but for others as well in this country.

**ESSENTIAL THEMES**

- Though younger when his father disappeared Terrence seems to have a recollection of memories regarding activities undertaken by his mother to protect them from the public.
- Terrence's understanding of life without a father seems too hard for him and his mother.
- Terrence seems to have been emotionally aroused by the death of his brother.
- Terrence's understanding of circumstances of the death of his father that emerged from the TRC had a negative effect on his school performance.
- Terrence feels better with school work but emphasizes his willingness to forgive those involved in his father's death if they tell the whole truth.
- Terrence praises the TRC's work for all those involved as information about their families was revealed.



### **NATURAL MEANING UNITS**

7 I hope I can have money to study and finish school so that I help my mother who is struggling to make ends meet. I'm having my hopes on the compensation the TRC promised my mother, but the question is when will that happen? My dad would have loved to see me studying and become an important person. I'll work hard to make him proud wherever he is.

### **ESSENTIAL THEMES**

Terrence's ambitions to study to help his mother seem to be filled with uncertainty if reparation will occur.

## **SITUATED STRUCTURE**

### **ZELDA'S FAMILY**

Both Zelda and her son seem to experience the loss of their family members differently. While Zelda thought about the possibility of her husband's arrest during the political turmoil, Terrence was a small child who didn't understand what happened.

Although Zelda dismisses the possibility of her husband's death, she becomes fearful of these consequences. Although her husband disappears while Zelda is convalescing from severe burns of the body, she tries hard to take care of her two sons.

The police harassment, such as being subjected to torture while detained, play on Zelda's emotions that are already vulnerable as she becomes helpless. Although she does not give up, as she searches for her husband, her fears of his death become intense. She experiences feelings of both anger and sadness. Terrence, on the other hand, feels the effects of an absent father when demands from school cannot be fulfilled by his mother.

Zelda's anguish is influenced further by the tragic death of her eldest son in township violence. This causes her to regret the life without a husband while Terrence loses a role model.

The news of her husband's disappearance have a severe impact on the family as they experience shock and devastation. Zelda experiences an incomplete sense of mourning rituals as the remains of her husband are never traced. The family feels humiliated about their conditions of living.

Zelda is thankful for the TRC process which brought the evidence of her husband's disappearance to the fore, but sceptical about the capability of the present delivery system to help the families to live. She finds solace in her spiritual meaning of living as she and her son are positive about forgiveness in order to live a meaningful life.