

# ASA ASA ASA AFRICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER ASA ASA ASA

VOLUME XI

FEBRUARY 1978

NUMBER 1

## Detainees Who Have Died in South Africa

The following list appeared as part of an article written by Bernard Levin, which appeared in *The Times*, November 9, 1977. The list was compiled by the South African Institute of Race Relations and is complete through September 1977.

1. **Looksmart Ngudle**, died 5/9/63. Inquest verdict: "Suicide, hanging." (Banned after his death by then Minister of Justice, now Prime Minister, J.B. Vorster).
2. **Bellington Mampe**, died September 1963 after 140 days of detention. No further details given.
3. **James Tyita**, died 24/1/64. Found hanging in cell by scarf. No details of inquest.
4. **Suliman Saloojee**, died 9/9/64. Fell seven floors from The Grays, then Security Police headquarters in Johannesburg. Death from multiple injuries, "no irregularities."
5. **Ngeni Gaga**, 9/5/65. Said to have died from natural causes. No details of inquest.
6. **Pongolosa Hoye**, 9/5/65. "Death from natural causes." No further details.
7. **James Hamakwayo**, died in 1966. "Suicide by hanging." No details given.
8. **Hangula Shonyeka**, 9/10/66. "Suicide." Shonyeka's name given by Minister of Police in 1970.
9. **L.Y. Leong Pin**, died 9/11/66, in Leeuwkop prison. "Suicide by hanging." No further details available.
10. **Ah Yan**, 5/1/67. Died in Silverton police cells. "Suicide by hanging." No details of inquest given.
11. **Alpheus Madiba**, 9/9/67. "Suicide by hanging." No further details.
12. **J.B. Tubakwa**, 11/9/68. "Hanging (suicide)." No details.
13. **Nicodimus Kgoathe**, 5/2/69. Post-mortem showed broncho-pneumonia, possibly as a result of head injury; bruises and abrasions from having "slipped in shower." Doctor believed these injuries were due to assault. An inquest magistrate said that on evidence before him, he was unable to record a finding.
14. **Solomon Modipane**, 28/2/69. "Slipped on soap" sustaining injuries. District surgeon unable to determine cause of death. Documents placed before magistrate, who endorsed them "natural death—no inquest necessary."
15. **James Lenkoe**, 10/3/69. Traces of copper, signs of electric shock in toe; bruises below ear, marks on neck, shoulders; hemorrhage at back of skull. Magistrate found "suicide by hanging" and death not due to offence on part of anyone. Died Pretoria local prison.
16. **Claeb Mayekiso**, 1/6/69. "Natural cause." No further details available.
17. **Michael Shivute**, night of 16-17 June 1969. Death "suicide." No details given.
18. **Jacob Monnagotia**, 10/9/69, in Pretoria. District surgeon found he died from "thrombosis."
19. **Imam Abdullah Haron**, 27/9/69. Died Maitland, Cape, police cells. "Fell downstairs"; 26 bruises of different ages; broken rib, haematoma on back. Inquest magistrate unable to determine how balance of injuries sustained, but detainee died of heart trouble partly brought on by the injuries.
20. **Mthayeni Cuthsela**, 21/1/71. First detained 21/12/70. Apparently allowed home then redetained. From Pondoland, he was brought to Umtata hospital where his son fetched his body. Face swollen, bruised, weals on body, cut on head. Death due to natural causes was verdict of inquest on 3/8/71.