

Project name: AL3283

Date of interview: 8 December 2009

Location of interview: Rietfontein, Pretoria

Language/s of interview: Afrikaans

Length of interview: 4 minutes 13 seconds

Name of Interviewer: De Wet Potgieter

Name of interviewee/s: Inspector Joppie van Staden

Name of translator (if any): De Wet Potgieter

Name of transcriber:

Notes on access and use (if any):

Audio file name/s of interview: AL3283\_PTA\_VANSTADENJOPPIE\_20091205\_2

De Wet	I am sitting here with Inspector Joppie van Staden. It is today Tuesday 8 December 2009. Joppie, you were for years attached to the police's riot squad before you joined the bomb disposal unit. What years were you with the riot unit?
Joppie	From 1980 to the middle of 1990.
De Wet	Tell us the circumstances you had to work. In those days the riot squad had to be at the forefront, the sharp edge, during riots. The ANC were involved in riots and upheaval during those years. How did you handle these situations and how were the culprits treated?
Joppie	1987, beginning of 1987 I was in the college and during March/April the riots started where people were burning the trains in Johannesburg.  We were still students when we were deployed. Now, there was none, it

was still in the apartheid era, and there was nothing of this human rights shit of today.

We stayed at John Vorster and most of the times travelled on the trains and when somebody step out of line like even put their hands outside the train windows we sjambokked them. We searched premises and were mainly looking for ANC rioters.

We mercilessly assaulted the culprits because in those days there was no word in our dictionary like torture.