

**STATUTORY DECLARATIONS OF EX-DETAINEES  
WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE JOINT STATEMENT  
OF 18 APRIL 1988 , BUT WHO DID NOT SIGN IT**

- a. Chew Kheng Chuan
- b. Tan Tee Seng
- c. Low Yit Leng
- d. Lim Li Kok
- e. Tay Hong Seng

THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT

(Chapter 320, 1985 Rev Ed)

STATUTORY DECLARATION

REVISED  
2  
SINGAPORE

CHEW KHENG CHUAN

I .....

NRIC/Passport No. [REDACTED] Managing Director  
Occupation.....

Address [REDACTED] .....

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

The 18 of April, 1988 statement by nine former detainees was made in response to what I know is a heartfelt sense of grievance regarding our 1987 arrests and detention. My main contention was that I was not knowingly involved in any Marxist conspiracy.

2 I believe that the signatories of the joint statement made the statement because government spokesmen, in their innumerable references to the arrests and detention, always referred to us as "the Marxist plotters" or "the Marxist conspirators." This was a grave damage to their reputations. It affected their jobs, their clients, and their businesses. I shared their sentiments.

3 I was asked to assist in the editing of the statement even though I had decided not to sign it. I did not sign the statement because in my case the purpose of "stating my position to clear my name" was already addressed by the inadvertant publication of extracts of my representation to the ISA Advisory Board in the 22 Oct 1987 issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review. My second reason for not signing was because I knew that my wife would not be able to emotionally cope if I was re-arrested.

*What*  
Chew Kheng Chuan

4 In my editing of the draft statement, I made stylistic but not substantive changes to the points enumerated in the draft statement. This was the result of several discussions held by those who eventually signed the statement which I attended and ascertained the points that they wanted to make in the statement, which was meant to be comprehensive. It was to be comprehensive so that we need never again make any other statement to clarify the first statement.

5 When the final draft was agreed upon by all those signing, I allowed my photocopying machine to be used to make approximately 450 copies of the statement. I also contributed \$50 to the expenses of this press release, be it for postage or towards the lawyer's fees for issuing the press statement on behalf of the signatories. When it came time to distribute the statement, I volunteered to distribute to two places -- the office of AFP (Agency Frances Presse) and the International Herald Tribune.

6 Of the security statement I wrote while under interrogation by the ISD in June 1987, I would say that it was generally an accurate account of my involvement and interest in political issues in Singapore.

7 At the television interview I appeared on, what I said again was truthful to the best of my knowledge. I only objected to the way in which The Straits Times headlined a remark which I made.

8 As for my treatment during detention, I was initially under great stress but subsequently I was well-treated, under the circumstances. My interrogation during the first three days was very traumatic but I was not assaulted.

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declaration Act, 1835.

*[Handwritten signature]*

.....  
( R.T.P./Signature of Declarant )

Declared before me at Singapore

Interpreted by

*[Handwritten signature]*

this ..... 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 1988

.....  
*[Handwritten signature]*

.....  
Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or other *[Handwritten signature]*  
Officer empowered by law to administer oaths, affirmations or affidavits. **KAM KAN HING**  
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS  
JUDICIARY, SINGAPORE.

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and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declaration Act, 1835.

*[Signature]*  
.....  
( R.T.P./Signature of Declarant )

Declared before me at Singapore  
this .....<sup>26<sup>th</sup></sup> day of *April* 1988

Interpreted by *[Signature]*  
.....  
*[Signature]*

.....  
Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or other *Kam Kan Hung*  
Officer empowered by law to administer **KAM KAN HUNG**  
oaths, affirmations or affidavits. COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS  
JUDICIARY, SINGAPORE.



THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT  
(Chapter 320, 1985 Rev Ed)

STATUTORY DECLARATION

TAN TEE SENG

I .....

NRIC/Passport No. [REDACTED] Marketing Executive  
Occupation .....

Address [REDACTED] .....

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

1 I was among the batch of detainees released on 26 Sep 87 for the alleged Marxist conspiracy. The 4 months of detention was a traumatic experience. However I was able to adjust to my normal life quickly. I continued with my position at "Wordmaker" within a week of my release.

2 After my release I met other ex-detainees occasionally at social functions. Inevitably the subject of our experiences during detentions and its effects were discussed among other things. Meanwhile the continual bombardments by the media and government on the Marxist conspiracy became an emotional taunt because it attacked even our character and integrity. I remember it was in one of such gatherings that the suggestion of a joint statement was brought up.

3 I remember I was later invited to a meeting where a drafted statement was brought up for discussion.

4 I subsequently attended 2 more meetings on the subject. On the last occasion of my attendance, I made clear my position that I would not be a signatory to the statement.

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Chan Eiden Swee  
.....

*[Handwritten signature]*

5 The primary reason for not appending my name to the statement was the fear that it would brew up into another political issue. I was sufficiently discouraged by my detention to consider another disruption to my life again.

6 My sentiments however on the government's allegation on the Marxist conspiracy was similar to the statement of the nine ie I did not see myself as a Marxist conspirator. By saying this I am not implying that the Marxist conspiracy is a fabrication, I was unaware of it, and in fact I don't care if there is one.

7 During my detention, I was never assaulted by my case officer and his assistants. I don't remember now how long my initial interrogation lasted but it was over long hours.

8 My statements given during my detention was generally true, including my TV interviews. However I was displeased and angered by the slant and over-dramatisation given by the press and SBC.

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act, 1835.

*Chaylis Ching*

.....  
(R.T.P./Signature of Declarant)

Declared before me at Singapore  
*27th*  
this ..... day of *April* ..... 1988

Interpreted by  
.....

*[Signature]*

Chen Suan Swee  
Commissioner for Oaths  
Judiciary, Singapore

.....  
Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or other  
Officer empowered by law to administer  
oaths, affirmations or affidavits.

THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT

(Chapter 320, 1985 Rev Ed)

STATUTORY DECLARATION

LOW YIT LENG

I .....

NRIC/Passport No. [redacted] Occupation Journalist .....

Address [redacted] .....

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

As a result of my arrest and detention, I lost my job and was unemployed from Sep 87 till Jan 88. Although I tried to get on with life and to try to overcome the trauma of the arrest and detention, I found it difficult to do so. The Marxist conspiracy has been continually referred to and harped upon by the government leaders. Most of these remarks subsequently became personal and damaging to the integrity and character of ex-detainees.

2 It was during one of the gatherings of ex-detainees in the midst of such continuous publicity on the issue of our arrests that the idea of issuing a joint statement surfaced. I had tried to ignore the public debate but like many ex-detainees, on many occasions, I felt angry and frustrated. I believe that these were some of the feelings which prompted the 9 detainees to issue the joint statement. On my part, I did not wish to get involved in making the joint statement because I was afraid of the repercussions and I basically wanted to forget the past and carry on with my life.

3 During my detention, I was not ill-treated. The statements of events given during my detention were factually true although I do not agree with the government's interpretation.

[Handwritten signature]

Chan Ehlen Swes  
Commissioner for Oaths

[Handwritten signature]

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act, 1835.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

.....  
(R.T.P./Signature of Declarant)

Declared before me at Singapore

Interpreted by

this *27<sup>th</sup>* day of *April* 1988

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
.....

*[Handwritten Signature]*

.....  
Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or other  
Officer empowered by law to administer  
oaths, affirmations or affidavits.

Chen Shien Swe.  
Commissioner for the  
Judiciary, Singapore.

THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT  
(Chapter 320, 1985 Rev Ed)  
STATUTORY DECLARATION

LIM LI KOK

I .....

NRIC/Passport No. [REDACTED] Publisher  
Occupation.....

[REDACTED]  
Address .....

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :

After my release on 20 Dec 87, I generally did not associate with the other ex-detainees who were arrested under Operation Spectrum. I considered that I had already settled my case and would like to lead a normal life. However, on the invitation of Wong Souk Yee, I attended a Chinese New Year gathering at her flat in Telok Blangah on 18 Feb 88 at 1500 hours. Also present were other ex-detainees.

2. The idea of a joint statement by ex-detainees was raised during the gathering. A draft of the proposed joint statement was passed round and I remember one of the points mentioned in the proposed joint statement was to deny that the ex-detainees were Marxists. After reading it, I felt that I should not sign as I was Marxist about 10 years ago. In fact my husband Chong Shin Kian decided on the spot that I should not have anything to do with it. After the abovementioned meeting, I did not attend any other discussion on this matter since I did not wish to get involved.

3. The statements given by me to ISD and to SBC, are to the best of my knowledge and recollection, true and correct. However, I was unhappy over the sensationalization of the case by the media.

4. As for my treatment during detention, I found the first 3 days of interrogation psychologically

*[Handwritten signature]*

Chen Shion Swen  
Commissioner for Oaths  
Judiciary, Singapore.

*[Handwritten signature]*

stressful. But subsequently ISD made my life in detention as normal as possible. I was not assaulted at any time during my detention.

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declaration Act, 1835

*Handwritten signature*

.....  
(R.T.P./Signature of Declarant)

Declared before me at Singapore

Interpreted by

this *27th* day of *April* 1988

.....  
.....

*Handwritten signature*

.....  
Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or other  
Officer empowered by law to administer  
oaths, affirmations or affidavits.

**Chan Ehen Swee**  
Commissioner for (U.S.)  
Judiciary, Singapore.

THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT

(Chapter 320, 1985 Rev Ed)

STATUTORY DECLARATION

TAY HONG SENG

I .....

Manager [redacted]

NRIC/Passport No. [redacted] Occupation.....

Address [redacted] .....

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :

I was approached by several of the ex-detainees who signed the joint statement to add my signature to the joint statement. I took part in 3 of the meetings held to prepare the statement and finally decided not to sign it. However, when approached, I contributed \$100 towards the cost of printing largely out of friendship and partly because I shared some of their feelings.

2. I am unable to comment on the individual positions of each of those who signed the statement. I believe, however, that generally they felt that the SBC and press had unfairly sensationalized and slanted their statements giving the public the wrong view of them. This was compounded by the constant harping on the issue of the arrests which adversely affected personal lives and reputations of the detainees. Some lost their jobs, some could not find jobs, others suffered heavy business losses. I perceived this sense of anguish and frustration was common to all who signed the statement. I also shared such feelings.

3 After listening to them for 3 meetings I decided not to sign because of some personal reasons and because I did not agree with the statement and theirs views completely.

4 First of all, I cannot say that I had been forced to give false statements under torture. Under

*Jstay*  
*Zweckman*

pressure of interrogation I gave my version of the facts as I see it. I would probably qualify and elaborate more on some of the statements I made because whilst my ISD case officers are experienced professionals and do not require me to highlight the context for them, when it is presented to the press, misinterpretations by the public may occur.

5 Secondly, I do not want to overstate the case against ISD officers. I think it was perhaps essential for them to employ certain disorientation techniques during initial interrogation to make sure that the ex-detainees were frank and forthright in giving statements without being held back or concealing anything. What I experienced in the first few days after the arrest was not pleasant. However, I was not assaulted. I was only deprived of sleep and subjected to protracted stressful questioning. Initially I was also confused and frightened.

6 I am unhappy with the SBC treatment and interpretation of my case. Not all of what I said was shown and the background commentary sensationalized the whole case.

7 I did not agree fully with the joint statement issued by the 9 ex-detainees because the statement stated somewhere that they were not Marxists. I felt that in my case before 1978 I do consider myself a Marxist and even after 1978 I still have friends within my social circle that I know have not given up Marxist ideology completely. I felt that if I sign the statement I may be misunderstood as one of the Christian workers allegedly being persecuted by the

*J. S. Gray*

*David S. Gray*

**Chaz Helen Swos**  
Commissioner for Oaths  
Judiciary, Singapore

Government. I am not a Christian and I think it would be extremely dishonest to try to be ambiguous about my conviction.

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declaration Act, 1835

*J. J. J.*

.....  
(R.T.P./Signature of Declarant)

Declared before me at Singapore

Interpreted by

this *27th* day of *April* 1988

.....  
.....

*[Signature]*

.....  
Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or other  
Officer empowered by law to administer  
oaths, affirmations or affidavits:..

Chan Shien Sw  
Commissioner for the  
Judiciary, Singapore.