

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS OF THE EIGHT
EX-DETAINEES WHO SIGNED THE JOINT
STATEMENT OF 18 APRIL 1988

- a. Yap Hon Ngian
- b. Tsang Chi Seng Kenneth
- c. Ng Bee Leng
- d. De Souza Kevin Desmond
- e. Chng Suan Tze
- f. Wong Souk Yee
- g. Tang Lay Lee
- h. Teo Soh Lung

SINGAPORE
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THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT

(Chapter 320, 1985 Rev Ed)

STATUTORY DECLARATION

YAP HON NGIAN

I

NRIC/Passport No. [redacted] Occupation Principal Subtitler

Address [redacted]

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

1 I have had deep-rooted prejudices against the government which can be traced back to my involvement in student activism in the early sixties. In MAY 1987 when I was arrested, I strongly felt that I had been unjustly accused. When the suggestion to write a joint statement was raised in late FEBRUARY, the urge to join in to hit back at the government was overwhelming.

2 Looking back, the joint statement released on 18 APR 88, which I signed was blown out of proportion with many facts not being scrutinised by me in seriousness. All the statements which I made during my detention were written by me out of my own free will and they are true. I was not coerced, assaulted nor tortured to write my statements. My narrations during my interview on television were also factually correct, and I received fair treatment under detention.

wf

Wong Hon Ngian
23/4/88

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THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT

(Chapter 320, 1985 Rev Ed)

STATUTORY DECLARATION

TSANG CHI SENG KENNETH

I

NRIC/Passport No. [redacted] Advertising
Occupation
Executive [redacted]
Address

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

I am making this statutory declaration on my own free will.

2 I was arrested on 21 MAY 87 under the ISA, and was released on 20 DEC 87 under Suspension Direction. Following my arrest, I was shocked and confused. I did not anticipate arrest. During the initial interrogation I was subjected to stress and mental pressure from protracted questioning. I was however not physically abused. After this initial period, I was treated well until my release.

3 Whilst under detention, I gave a statement narrating my participation in several organisations. I reaffirm this statement to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I did not lie or fabricate anything in my statement. The interpretation by the mass media of my case was to me unsatisfactory. The media made sweeping generalisations which did not accurately account for our individual positions. On my part I was not a conscious participant in the Marxist conspiracy although I may have been an unwitting party.

Kenneth

Wang Lucheng
23/4/88
Wang Lucheng
Junior, Singapore

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

Ref 2
Signature

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I NG BEE LENG
NRIC/Passport No. [REDACTED] Aftercare Officer
Occupation
Address.. [REDACTED]

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

When the idea of the joint statement was mooted among the ex-detainees somewhere in early FEBRUARY this year, I maintained a non-committal stand as far as signing the joint statement was concerned. This was because I was uncertain as to its purpose and was also unprepared for the possible consequences of challenging the government on our detentions. It was only until mid-MARCH when it was obvious that there was a need for more signatories to strengthen the joint statement. At that time, there were only about 7 who were prepared to sign the press statement.

2 I was still undecided until I consulted PATRICK SEONG and Father PATRICK GOH on this matter. I was convinced after my discussion with PATRICK SEONG that the press release would serve the following objectives :-

- (1) It would be an important record in history that the names of the individuals and some organisations would be cleared.
- (2) That this would deter the government in future from using the Internal Security Act.
- (3) That the press statement would serve to discredit the government especially in time of an Election year and may influence the outcome of the suit between the government and the Far Eastern Economic Review.

Ref 223/4/88

[Signature]

3 PATRICK SEONG also assessed that it was unlikely that the government would want to re-arrest the signatories for coming out with a press statement for fear that it may lose popularity especially in this Election year. He assessed therefore that the government would not dare to appear high-handed or harsh.

4 During my brief discussion with Father PATRICK GOH, he encouraged me and the group to go ahead with the press statement as it would serve as a morale booster to the social action groups in both Singapore and Malaysia that have been affected directly or indirectly by the arrests.

5 I therefore decided to sign the press statement to clear my name and to lend support to the other signatories out of friendship. I am now retracting my signature from the joint statement because I am now convinced that whilst my intention to come out with the press statement may not be sinister, it is highly possible that our move to discredit the government may be manipulated by others to achieve their own end.

6 I maintain that I was not physically assaulted by any ISD officers during my detention. I was well treated from the day of my arrest. In fact, I was given proper medical treatment when I fell sick on the first day. I had clarified in the Straits Times before and still maintain now that I was not "tortured till I landed up in the hospital" as was reported in some foreign newspapers. As far as I am concerned, I stand by what I have said during my interview with the Straits Times.

7 The statements I gave to the Internal Security Department during my detention from 21 MAY 87 to 20 JUN 87, are factually correct and the events stated were not fabricated.

WJF 23/4/88
Wong Joo Koh
7000
Johore

[Handwritten signature]

8 What I had said during my TV appearance tallied with what I had written in my statements. I maintain that they are factually correct.

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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.

[Handwritten Signature]

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

Declared before me at Singapore Interpreted by

 23rd April
this day of 1988

at 7.52 p.m.

[Handwritten Signature]

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

[Faint, illegible text]



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

STATUTORY DECLARATION

DE SOUZA KEVIN DESMOND

I

NRIC/Passport No. [redacted] Pupil in a law firm
.....Occupation.....

Address..... [redacted]

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

On the 18th of APRIL 1988, a joint statement signed by nine ex-detainees including myself was released to the press.

2 Pushed to sign the joint statement by the government's constant harping on the issue of the arrests, I miscalculated its implication and the reaction of the government.

3 I wish to clarify certain personal points in relation to the joint statement.

4 Firstly, with respect to the security statements given by me, I wish to state that the facts and events stated therein are true and correct.

5 Secondly, the events stated in my television interview by the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation are true and correct. However, I was not happy with some parts of my interview as what I said was over-dramatised and because SBC did not televise my interview in full. As such, my comments could be misconstrued.

Kevin Desmond

[Signature]

Kit Meng
Commissioner for Oaths
Judicial Commission Singapore

THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT
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STATUTORY DECLARATION

CHNG SUAN TZE

I

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

Address..... [REDACTED]

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

On the 18th of APRIL 1988, a Press Statement was released and signed by 9 ex-detainees of which I was one.

2 After my release I tried to forget about what happened and to concentrate on my work. However, I was constantly reminded of the Marxist conspiracy by the continuing publicity generated by the government about the detainees. The government statements constantly provoked and taunted ex-detainees. Since I was not completely convinced of my own conscious involvement in the conspiracy I was naturally very upset.

3 During this time I have also been keeping contact with the other ex-detainees. It was during one of such social contacts that the idea of issuing a joint press statement came about. Given the fact that I was provoked and upset I readily agreed with this idea. However, over the subsequent months, as the statement was being drafted, and redrafted I began to lose interest. Firstly, I was very busy with my work and was really weary of having to meet to discuss to redraft and refine the statement.

Chng Suan Tze

[Signature]

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Council

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

STATUTORY DECLARATION

WONG SOUK YEE

I
NRIC/Passport No. [REDACTED] Occupation Freelance Journalist
Address. [REDACTED]

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

I am making the following statutory declaration in connection with the joint press statement issued on APRIL 18, 1988 on my own free will.

2 During my detention, I was not slapped in the face nor hit on any part of the body. However, I was put through long and intensive interrogation. After the initial stage, I was well-treated throughout the rest of the detention.

3 What I said on television in the programme, "Tracing the Conspiracy" was true. But I do not agree with the SBC commentator's commentary of my activities.

4 I was not forced to write anything untrue in my statements during detention. The statements that I gave during detention were true to the best of my knowledge. However, I do not agree with the government's interpretation of the facts.

5 The reasons for my signing the press statement were :-

(a) I was provoked by the incessant government's taunting in the regional news magazines, challenging us to deny the Marxist conspiracy allegation.

W

Koh Kit Meng
Minister for Culture

SINGAPORE

THE STATUTORY DECLARATIONS ACT
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STATUTORY DECLARATION

I..... TANG LAY LEE
NRIC/Passport No. [REDACTED] Occupation Lawyer
Address [REDACTED]

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

1 I am one of the signatories of the joint press statement released by nine ex-detainees of Operation "Spectrum" on 18th April 1988.

2 I attended all the meetings which led to the release of the joint press statement.

3 PATRICK SEONG did not attend any of the meetings nor did he, to the best of my knowledge, help to draft or amend or contribute to the joint statement.

4 I signed the joint statement because of the following reasons :

- (a) Although the circumstances and events in my statements to ISD are factually correct, I was unhappy with the slant given to certain portions of these statements.
- (b) I was unhappy with the over dramatisation and the treatment given to my statements to SBC which cast me in a bad light.
- (c) I was angry with the overdose of publicity given to the Marxist conspiracy which made it difficult for me to carry on with my normal life.

Tang Lay Lee

[Signature]

Koh Kit Meng
Commissioner for Oath

5 At the time of my arrest, I was not well, I was shocked, confused and frightened. During the initial interrogation I faced great psychological stress after which I was well treated. I have no complaints to make regarding the treatment I received. It is not my intention nor will I lodge any complaint against any ISD officer for my arrest, interrogation and detention.

6 The joint press statement is the last time I will raise this issue on the Marxist conspiracy and on the treatment I received during detention.

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.

Tan Jay Lee
.....
(R.T.P./Signature of Declarant)

Declared before me at Singapore

Interpreted by

25th April
this day of 1988

at 8.53 p.m

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

[Signature]
.....
Koh Kit Meng
Commissioner for Oaths
Judiciary, Singapore

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

REVISED
1985
SINGAPORE

STATUTORY DECLARATION

TEO SOH LUNG

I

NRIC/Passport No. [REDACTED] Occupation Lawyer

Address..... [REDACTED]

do solemnly and sincerely declare that :-

1 I was arrested on 21 MAY 87 and gave several statements regarding my involvement in the Geylang Catholic Centre, The Law Society and the Workers' Party.

2 I believe that all my statements were accurate and fair. I never expected to be detained for all that I have done because I was not aware that I was playing any role in any Marxist conspiracy.

3 Of the SBC interview, I believe that what I said was true except that questions and linking commentaries were slanted.

4 A joint press statement was issued on 18 APR 88. I was a signatory to the statement because I was unhappy with the continuous adverse publicity against me and the detainees. I resented the repeated reference to me as a Marxist conspirator intent on subverting the existing government.

5 I was also unhappy with the government's repeated statements because I had personally suffered many setbacks due to my arrest and detention as my own practice was adversely affected and I was worried about survival. My personal reputation as a lawyer was, I felt, damaged and my own confidence in appearing before judges was affected.

Teoh Lung
Teoh Lung

6 The inability to obtain gainful employment on the part of some detainees as well as the refusal of permission to leave the country in search of employment also added to my unhappiness.

7 After seeing Mr Sim Poh Heng on Saturday 16 APR 88, I was distressed at the possible consequence of re-arrest and I felt responsible to the other detainees. I wanted to call off the plan to issue the joint statement. This did not materialise because the tension was so high that no one was willing to stop the release of the joint statement.

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.

Justohing

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

Declared before me at Singapore

Interpreted by

27th April
this day of 1988

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@ 206 pm.

.....
Justice of the Peace, Notary Public or other *KAM KAN HING*
Officer empowered by law to administer Commissioner for Oaths,
oaths, affirmations or affidavits. Judiciary, Singapore.