

You Tube Video Interview, as transcribed:

“1960 there were big fights, fighting for There were big (indicating by using her right-hand brushed down her left arm) a long reference book they call ma’lang ... now that reference book, the people. .. The PAC, they do not want that big reference book ... they want the small one..... (louder) then one day there comes the soldiers, they speak, ... they told people, go to the police station, they going to police station, ... we are going to the police station, .. The whole Sharpeville, (stretching her arms out wide, then bringing the hands towards one another and then to her chest, reflecting the entire community.)”

“But they told you to go there”.

“Yes... the whole Sharpeville... we sit there, the other they give the children milk, (indicating breast feeding,) ... other they smoke... (Using her two fingers indicating the smoking action)... they are sitting like this, (indicating that they were sitting on the floor),.... we are looking over there, (pointing with two fingers, stretching from her eyes out ahead), looking at the Police station,

that they police station will bring something nice for them.” (Mama appears to relax, indicating the relaxed mode during the wait at the police station)

(Mama raises her head looking out to the left, her eyes getting bigger, she lifts her left hand). “*Eleven ‘o’clock they shoot ...DOOTH*, (she makes the sound of a cannon type shot) “*... they shoot ... what’s wrong now ... they shoot, they shooting peoples, ... they shoot peoples on top of their houses,*” (indicating that people were shot, either where they were on top of their houses, or by people from a raised position) “*.... people on top of their houses they fall down,*” (indicating the people dropping to the ground), “*the police the soldiers,*” (Here she repeatedly stabs towards the ground with what seems to be a rifle and bayonet, her facial expression still seeing the day before her) “*... make the people die ... they shoot them, they make like this,*” (shaking her body to reflect those on the ground in convulsion), “*they are busy making like this,*” (then stabbing them again, showing the pain she still feels), “*making people die.*”

“But were you just sitting waiting?”

“Just sitting waiting, waiting for words that come from the police station, telling right ... we are going to get that reference book,” (Indicating by tapping her right hand on her left hand, a much smaller reference book). (Mama sits back), *“no fighting, nothing,”* (indicating her sitting position again) *“we were sitting just like this ...”* (waving both her arms indicating that they were doing nothing), *“we were doing nothing. No fighting, ... nothing, no fighting, we were just sitting,”* (then her arm indicating a throwing motion) *“no stones, nothing,* (swinging her arms in a crossing movement and down) *nothing, but they shoot the people, they shoot the people, from Sharpeville to Vukovenzelele,.... my mother, ...my mother were sitting her house like this one, that shooting from the police station,* (moving her hands and fingers to indicate machine gun fire) *they shooting in the house, ... other peoples house,* (Moving her arms around while indicating the chaos and turmoil of the day, eyes wide open)... *Peoples get out and running ... Schildren... died from that, oooooo.....* (Clasping her hands to her face, and shedding a tear while I waited in silence)..... (Swinging her arms in a crossing movement and down with each comment that follows,) *....schildren died ...*

big people died, wooooooooo..... that ... day... was... horrible (the word horrible is choked by her tears that she is now shedding with her hands covering her face), *that day was horrible, that day was horrible, oooo....*”

I was left uncomfortable in the silence and ask a stupid question in order to continue. “And ... at what stage did you leave the police station, did they chase you away?”

“They don’t chase us, (her two hands showing a damping motion from face level down, and then indicating the flight motion) we run away ... we run away, ... and that thing, DOOTH, (pointing back over her shoulders to where the artillery was based, and then indicating the path of the bullets moving through them while they were fleeing), shu ‘pu’ tu. We run away, people running in the street, going this way, they shoot the people in the back. They shoot the people from the front, they turn back ... they shoot ... they shoot ...there is a road that crosses like this, (indicating a cross-road) ... they shoot from this side ... they shoot from this side ... they shoot from this side..... The blood of the people was running like this in the street, (indicating that the blood was flowing and looking for a word to

describe the gutter drain) *into..... And going to the dam.*”

“And they never said anything?”

“Nothing Nothing till today. No-one says anything.....”

Mama then goes through details of how the dead were treated, how they were buried, and then, most important, how this community received no support, not even the children who lost their parents.

“No support ... nothing, nothing, even today, nothing.”