

DATE: 14/11/07
PUBLICATION: PRETORIA NEWS
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Taliep's marriage was a nightmare, says sister

Slain musician Taliep Petersen described his marriage to Najwa as a "nightmare" the Wynberg Regional Court in Cape Town heard yesterday.

Taliep's sister Tagmieda Johnson took the stand at Najwa's second bail application before Western Cape regional court president Robert Henney. She was called by prosecutor Shireen Riley who was opposing the bail bid.

Najwa and three accomplices, is alleged to have shot dead the musician.

Johnson said Taliep was a very private person and loathed discussing his problems with anyone but her. They came from a broken home which had resulted in a very close relationship.

Johnson said Taliep's marriage to Najwa had been his second. She said: "Me and my husband could see cracks in the second marriage long before he told me about his problems."

Taliep had phoned her in April last year to say he was extremely unhappy.

"He said his first marriage had been terrible but the second to Najwa was a nightmare ... like going from the frying pan into the fire," she said.

She told the court of an incident in which Najwa had stabbed Taliep.

She said Taliep had the next day received calls from newspaper

reporters, and told her that the last thing he would do was talk to the media about his personal life.

After the stabbing, he told her that Najwa had destroyed the last bit of passion he had for her. He did not pray with his wife anymore, did not have sex with her and was scared she would try something again.

The first four years of his marriage to Najwa had been happy but the last four had been terrible.

She told the court: "I said ... he had to do something about it. He said he was thinking about buying another house where he could stay without her but with his children from his previous marriage and present marriage."

Earlier, police investigating officer Captain Joash Dryden warned that Najwa "will be gone" if released on bail.

He was questioned by Petersen's lawyer Herbert Raubenheimer, who wanted Dryden to concede that Petersen had an "arguable case" - that she was asleep with her young daughter in a closed bedroom when her husband was shot dead in the lounge - to present when she went on trial. Dryden told the court he stood by his assertion that the State had a strong case against Petersen. The case continues on November 26. - Sapa

