

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: ACTIVIST KILLERS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

On 17 May 2018, the Port Elizabeth High Court sentenced Deswin Kleinbooï, 22, and Eston Afrikaner, 19, for murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, unlawful possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition. It was revealed in court papers that on 12 May 2016, at approximately 06h00, the deceased and his three employees delivered bread with his truck in the Helenvale area of Port Elizabeth. On route to Bramlin Markman in Helenvale, they drove past the accused in Frithard Street.

The accused together with an unknown person conspired to rob the deceased. The deceased stopped at a spaza shop where he was making a delivery. The two men approached the deceased. Accused 2 armed with a firearm shot the deceased once in the head. The two accused men robbed the deceased's of his cell phone, charger and an unknown amount of cash. The cause of death was determined to be a head injury due to gunshot. It was also revealed after this incident they fled the scene.

Soon after their arrest, police investigations revealed that they were affiliated to the Kakdaler Gang. Further investigations revealed that the deceased was an activist against gangsterism in the Northern Areas.. He also formed part of the Community Policing Forum. He was also a brother in law to Advocate Sandan who is based at the DDPP PE office.

According to Advocate Garth Baartman, the challenges in this case were that evidence was based on a single witness who was mildly mentally disturbed. Several consultations had to be held with this witness to prepare him for court. This case was extremely taxing emotionally for Advocate Baartman. He did an excellent job preparing the witness for court and gaining his trust. The witness had fled the area after the shooting and was petrified to testify. He was placed on the Witness Protection Program and on the day of the trial, Advocate Baartman brought an application in terms of section 158 of the

Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 for his evidence to be heard via the closed circuit television system so that he did not have to face the perpetrators.

Both accused were convicted as charged and sentenced as follows: Deswin Kleinbooi was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances and Eston Afrikaner was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, 15 years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 15 years for unlawful possession of firearm and 3 years unlawful possession of ammunition. We must commend Advocate Baartman for the excellent execution of the task with regard to this matter.

Advocate Indra Goberdan who is the leader of the Gang Task Team said: "This brings to 19 life sentences that the gangsters have received thus far and despite the challenges, this team has exceeded all expectations and I am incredibly proud of the team."

Kind Regards,

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