

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 28 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**RE: CHILD MURDER MELVIN VOLKWYN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS  
IMPRISONMENT**

The High Court of South Africa: Western Cape Division sentenced Melvin Volkwyn to 20 years imprisonment after he was convicted of murdering Orderick Lucas.

Lucas who was a year old at the time of his death in May 2017, was the son of Davedine Lucas and Kounkou Dziendelet. He and his two siblings were placed in the care of Davedine's parents, Cornelia Scheepersn and Devan Scheepers on 08 January 2019 following an order of a Children's Court.

The placement of the siblings into foster care follows an investigation into the domestic circumstances of the Lucas household.

Although expressly forbidden by the court order, the children occasionally spent weekends with Davedine instead of being with their grandparents.

On Friday, 22 March 2019, the deceased and his two siblings were again with their parents after their father Dziendelet fetched them from their grandmother's house. On Sunday evening, 24 March 2019, Davedine visited her friend, Eon Adams accompanied by Orderick. She left Adams' house to attend to an allegation of theft against her. She asked Volkwyn to look after her son. She did not return to Adams' house that evening. Volkwyn took Orderick with him to his house at 6 Kleinvei Way, Melton Rose, Eersterivier.

Four days later, 28 March 2019, Orderick's family discovered that he was missing. On 02 April 2019, a group of children playing on the street discovered Orderick's body in a storm water drain.

The late Advocate, Mornay Julius successfully prosecuted the case when the court convicted Volkwyn on 25 August 202.

During judgment, the court commented that the fact that the accused cried during the court proceedings, is no indication that he was remorseful and that there is a distinction between regret and remorse. It further remarked that the accused had been untruthful. While the family of the deceased was looking for the deceased, the accused at no stage did he disclose to the family where the deceased was. The judge stressed further that it takes a community to raise a child and reiterated that members of the community are called to be proactive in protecting children, assisting social workers and notify authorities when children are not taken care of.

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions in the Western Cape, Advocate Nicolette Bell welcomed the sentence.

“This was one of the last matters that Advocate Julius litigated before his untimely passing. In this case he ensured justice for Orderick, his grandparents, his siblings and that community. He has served the organisation, the community and justice with integrity and honor. His hard work and dedication to serving the community is echoed in this matter”.

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