

PRESS RELEASE



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RE: CAPE TOWN MAN GETS 25 YEARS FOR MURDER OF PROMINENT UNDERWORLD FIGURE

Today the Western Cape High Court sentenced Fabian Cupido to 40 years imprisonment for the murder of prominent Cape Town underworld figure, Brian Wainstein.

This follows the conviction of Cupido, through a plea-bargain agreement, of murder, illegal possession of a firearm, money laundering, being a member of a gang, and illegal possession of ammunition.

He was sentenced to 25 years for murder, 5 years for illegal possession of a firearm, 5 years for money laundering, 3 years for being a member of a gang and 2 years imprisonment for illegal possession of ammunition. The sentences will run concurrently. He was declared unfit to possess a firearm.

In his argument, in aggravation of sentence, the prosecutor, Senior State Advocate Mervyn Menigo, told the court that the phenomenon of gang related contract killing has become particularly prevalent in the Western Cape. "The murder was premeditated and committed in the furtherance of a conspiracy and in association with a criminal gang. The circumstances of the murder are particularly heinous as the home of the deceased was invaded and he was shot multiple times at close range while sound asleep next to his girlfriend and young child," he argued.

Cupido confessed that on 17 August 2017, he and Chestlyn Adams attended a meeting held at Goodhope Tyres in Mitchells Plain. The gathering, attended by members of the 27 gang, planned the murder of the deceased at his Constantia home. The meeting decided that Adams would pull the trigger while Cupido would be the getaway driver.

The evening of the murder, the accused met with Mathew Breet to swap vehicles. Mathew Breet gave him and Adams the layout of the deceased's house and details of how to access the premises. He emphasized that the girlfriend and child of the deceased would be home but should not be harmed.

Cupido and Adams carried out the murder and went home afterwards. The next morning Cupido was paid R35 000 for his role in the murder.

In separate cases linked to this murder, the high court sentenced Adams and Breet to 25 years and 20 years imprisonment respectively, for their role in this case.

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