

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: CHILD RAPIST AND MURDERER GETS LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Today, the Johannesburg High Court sentenced Mthunedzi Ganca to two life imprisonment and a further 2 years for kidnapping, raping and murdering a four year old child.

The court heard how Ganca (known to the child as he was a brother to the child mother's best friend) lured the child to his shack.

In January 2016, the community of Edenpark in Palmridge made a gruesome discovery of a lifeless body of the four year old girl underneath Ganca's bed. Hours after the little girl's disappearance, the community members heeded the call from the victim's mother and started to help search for the girl. The search led them to the shack of the accused, who was not present during their arrival. Upon opening the shack, one community member saw the little girl's hand protruding underneath Ganca's bed. When they lifted the bed, they found the strangled and raped body of the little girl.

The community then started hunting for Ganca. He was apprehended by the community at a nearby tavern and was later handed over to the police.

Given a reasonable opportunity to tell his side of the story as required by law, Ganca opted to remain silent and not state his version of events. The state used the evidence of a witness that saw the accused walking with the child to his shack and DNA evidence that was found on the child's body as well as a used condom that was found on the crime scene.

The NPA commends the heroic efforts of the community who, despite their anger towards the accused, never took the law into their own hands or subjected him to vigilantism, but, allowed the law to take its course.

Acting Judge Dosio, remarked that horrendous crimes against children continues unabated and that the courts must continue playing the role of prevention, deterrent and retribution by imposing harsh sentences to those who take advantage of children's vulnerabilities.

Counsel for the state, Advocate Tania Buitendag, said that the NPA remain indebted to those community members that ensured that the little girl's family realise justice. "This case proves that law enforcement authorities cannot work in silos but continue to rely on collective efforts from the communities that we serve and that of our partners like SAPS" she said.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Hurbetin Phindi Louw-Mjonondwane

Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng

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