

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: COUPLE HANDED LENGTHY IMPRISONMENT TERMS FOR MURDER

A Gugulethu couple has been handed lengthy prison sentences after they were convicted for the brutal murder of former Naspers Financial Director, Frederik Johannes Wiese.

Yesterday, Nomfundo Mtshawu and her boyfriend, Vuyolwethu Mgemané were respectively sentenced by the Western Cape High Court to 25 years direct imprisonment and life imprisonment after they were convicted on 21 May 2019 on charges of murder, housebreaking with intent to rob and robbery with aggravating circumstances.

Mtshawu, 34, pleaded not guilty on murder and robbery with aggravating circumstances. She placed herself at the crime scene telling the court that she and her boyfriend decided to visit the suburbs to look for places where they can get money, as they needed to buy clothes for a funeral. She told the court that on the morning of 4 August 2017, they identified the house of the deceased, in Higgovale, Cape Town to break into and rob.

At the time, the 80 year- old Wiese was alone in the house, as his wife had gone to the shops. The couple bludgeoned the deceased until he died and took cellular phones, reading glasses, wrist watches, food, wine, backpacks, cutlery, cash, a black patch containing a silver napkin, bank and retail cards.

His wife discovered his body on her return from the shops and a patrolling local security van heard her screams. The couple was later arrested in Gugulethu.

During the trial, Advocate Maresa Engelbrecht argued that the accused showed no remorse and no respect for the law. "This was an extremely serious crime. The deceased was robbed and murdered in his own house where he is supposed to be safe. His wife came across his body. Society demands proper sentences in matters like these. There is

Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security

an unacceptable high level of violent crimes in our communities, especially involving children, women and older people. They target the vulnerable ones. Given the circumstances of this case, any sentence imposed must serve as a deterrent and must protect societal interest," she argued.

Mtshawu has five previous convictions of housebreaking with intent to steal and theft. The court sentenced Mtshawu to 25 years direct imprisonment for the murder and 10 years direct imprisonment for the robbery with aggravating circumstances. The court ordered that the 10 years direct imprisonment run concurrently with the period of 25 years imprisonment imposed for the murder.

Mgemane, who pleaded guilty to both charges, has several previous convictions for housebreaking, theft and robbery with aggravating circumstances. He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances and was on parole at the time of committing the offences.

The court sentenced him to life imprisonment for the murder and 15 years for housebreaking with intent to rob and robbery with aggravating circumstances.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in the Western Cape, Advocate Rodney de Kock, welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape

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