

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: DANEL ROOSKRANS' MURDERER SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Zane Charles Ross of Toekomsrus was declared to be a dangerous criminal by Acting Judge Moosa at the Johannesburg High Court for the brutal murder of his girlfriend on New Year's Eve of 2017 in Randfontein.

On 5 March 2018, the 28 year-old was convicted and found guilty of murder and defeating the ends of justice. The presiding officer sentenced Ross to imprisonment for 10 years for defeating the ends of justice. He will further serve life imprisonment for the conviction on murder as per Section 286A of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977.

At the time of the incident on 31 December 2017, Danel Rooskrans went to Ross' house to collect clothes for their child. On her arrival, they went to the accused's room where he brutally assaulted Rooskrans with a spade, knives and a broom. At some stage after the attack, Ross left the room to fetch water from the bathroom where after he returned to the room to wash the blood off the walls and the floor.

During the attack, Ross' family heard Rooskrans' screams. They notified her family who rushed to the scene. Rooskrans was still alive and she was loaded onto the back of a bakkie in an attempt to seek medical attention. She however succumbed to the injuries before she could get to the hospital.

During the sentencing proceedings, Adv Rolene Barnard led evidence from two psychiatrists, who compiled unanimous reports which revealed that the accused is a danger to the physical and mental wellbeing of other people, as he was diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder and psychopathy. She brought an application that the judge should consider the accused's past conduct, and submitted that although he is a first offender, his previous violent conduct was relevant to this enquiry, especially a previous assault on the deceased when she was pregnant with his child.

Before passing the sentence, the judge considered the fact that the overwhelming evidence proves that Ross has poor prospects of rehabilitation. The court ordered that Ross must return to court after serving 25 years of imprisonment in order for the court to reconsider his sentence.

The NPA condemns the rampant gender based violence and femicide and welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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