

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 13 MAY 2020

RE: FIVE PARYS FARMERS CONVICTED OF ASSAULT OF TWO FARM WORKERS

Five farmers were on Friday convicted of common assault and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm by the Free State High Court. Judge Corne van Zyl found Gert van der Westhuizen and Anton Loggenberg, both 53 years old, guilty on one count of common assault and one of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Lodewikus van der Westhuizen (22) was convicted on two counts of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and one count of defeating the ends of justice. Cornelius Loggenberg (23) and Gert van Vuuren (26) were each found guilty on one count of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

The sixth accused, Hendrik Prinsloo (49), who was a police officer at the time of the incident, was acquitted on all counts.

According to evidence presented in court, the two farm workers, Simon Tjixa (35) and Simon Jubeba (29) went to the residence of Loedie van der Westhuizen on 6 January 2016, to claim their salaries as they alleged that he did not pay them for November 2015.

Upon reaching Loedie van der Westhuizen's residence at Kocksrust farm in Parys, a confrontation ensued resulting in Van der Westhuizen alerting the Parys security company of an attack on his farm. This was done through activating an alarm system. When the alarm went off, it also alerted neighbouring farmers who converged at the scene.

A group of local farmers tracked down and confronted Tjixa and Jubeba, about 8km from the farm. The farmers assaulted the two men before handing them to the police. Tjixa

was admitted at Parys Provincial Hospital and Jubeba was transported to Pelonomi Hospital in Bloemfontein. Jubeba was declared dead on arrival and Tjixa died later.

The sentencing proceedings were postponed to 24 August 2020.

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