

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 25 MARCH 2019**

**RE: FORMER PASTOR SENTENCED TO 50 YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT  
FOR RAPE & MURDER SPREE**

A Mitchells Plain former pastor turned serial rapist and murderer has been sentenced to fifty years direct imprisonment after pleading guilty to two counts of murder and seven counts of rape. Keith Bird entered into a plea and sentencing agreement with the state and further confessed to four other counts of crimen injuria and theft.

The Western Cape High Court sentenced him to 25 years direct imprisonment for the murder of his former fiancé, An-Niesa Bardien. He received another 25 years direct imprisonment for the murder of Sharvonne Sharnice Koense. The court further sentenced him to 90 years direct imprisonment for seven counts of rape, 2 years for the four counts of crimen injuria (six months for each count) and a year for the theft of a cell phone of one of his rape victims. The court ordered that sentences imposed on count 2, 3 (murder and rape), count 4 to 7 (crimen injuria), count 8, 9, 10 (3 rapes) and count 11 to 14 (3 rapes and theft) shall run concurrently (effectively 25 years imprisonment in respect of the aforementioned counts). Count 1 will not run concurrently with the other sentences. The accused is therefore, effectively sentenced to 50 (fifty) years direct imprisonment. The court further declared him unfit to possess a firearm in terms of section 103 of Firearms Control Act, No. 60 of 2000.

State Advocate, Maresa Engelbrecht told the court that the accused's crime spree started after his engagement to Bardien was broken off. On 8 January 2013, he asked Lizelle Jantjies to call the deceased on her cell phone and ask to meet her near Camp Road in Strandfontein. Jantjies walked with the deceased to the bushes where the accused was waiting. Jantjies then ran away as she was scared of the accused. He strangled the deceased until she was unconscious and then crushed her head by hitting her several times with a rock. She sustained extensive fractures of the facial bones. The accused

then forced Lucien Jansen to dig a shallow grave to bury the deceased's body. The 36 year old's body was discovered ten days later.

In the four counts of crimen injuria, the accused showed a video of himself having sex with a work colleague to his other colleagues. He took the video without the knowledge of his victim and showed it to his work colleagues without her consent. His modus operandi in one of the rapes included creating a false Facebook account under a pseudo name "Kelly" and lured his victim by offering her work as a model. He lured the victim to the bushes in Rocklands, Mitchells Plain, telling her there was a photo shoot at the beach. He took out a knife and a taser and threatened the victim before raping her.

In another rape case, he lured his victim using another social network, Mixit, calling himself "Jerome" and asked the victim to meet him at the New Apostolic Church in Tafelsig. He then went with the victim to her house where he raped her. Some of the victims were raped more than once. He threatened to kill his victims and their families if they told anyone of the rapes.

Emphasising aggravating factors against the accused, Advocate Engelbrecht said, "The offences are very serious. There are multiple charges of rape. Two lives were lost. The victims were strangled, threatened with a knife and a taser. The accused got away with his crime spree for almost three years before he got caught and he has previous convictions. His victims are still traumatised."

The state consulted with the victims and the families who are satisfied with the sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape**

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