

# PRESS RELEASE



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 25 JUNE 2020**

**RE: GANG MEMBERS SENTENCED FOR MURDERS OF RIVAL GANG**

The Khayelitsha Priority Crimes Court sentenced two members of the Ugly Americans gang to a combined 71 years imprisonment for murder of rival gang members.

Mujahid Alexander and Brandon September both members of the Ugly Americans gang were convicted of murders of Faried Alexander, a Junior Mafias gang member, and Kwanele Singqu, The Terrible Josters gang member.

The two incidents are separate and happened at different dates but were successfully prosecuted by Advocate Ronell Stone who secured the heavy sentences through a plea-bargain agreement yesterday afternoon.

Mujahid Alexander was convicted for the murder of Kwanele Singqu, being a member of a gang, illegal possession of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition. The court sentenced him to 22 years imprisonment for murder, 5 years for being a member of a gang, 5 years for illegal possession of a firearm and 2 years for illegal possession of ammunition. In total, this came to 34 years imprisonment but the court ordered that all the sentences run concurrently with the sentence imposed for the murder sentencing him to an effective 22 years.

Brandon September was convicted of murder of Faried Alexander, of being a member of a gang, illegal possession of ammunition and illegal possession of ammunition. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment for murder, 5 years for being a member of a gang, 5 years for illegal possession of a firearm and 2 years for illegal possession of ammunition. His total sentence was 37 years imprisonment. The court ordered that all the other sentences run concurrently with the sentence imposed for the murder conviction. He was effectively sentenced to 25 years imprisonment.

Alexander, 18, told the court that the fight between the Ugly Americans and The Terrible Josters concerns drug dealing and broadening of the drug dealing territory. He says in June 2019, a member of The Terrible Josters shot and wounded a member of his gang and they went on a search for revenge when they bumped into Singqu a month later. He fatally shot Singqu.

He also told the court that the fight between the Ugly Americans gang and the Junior Mafias was over drug dealing and turf wars. He says Faried Alexander shot at him and his gang members but they managed to get away. On 1 August 2019, they were alerted about the deceased's where about and they went looking for him. He fatally shot him and ran away. He was arrested on 16 August 2019.

Advocate Stone told the court, on both cases, that there is a sharp increase in gang cases in the jurisdiction of the Khayelitsha Priority Crimes Court. "Criminal gang activities pose a security threat and infringe on the rights of people as enshrined in the Bill of Rights. These activities brings about fear and intimidation to law-abiding citizens and often causes them physical harm. The increasing possession and abuse of firearms contributes to the high levels of violent crimes in our communities. The offence was committed with direct intent and the accused displayed brutal and callous behaviour during the commission of the offences," she said.

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