

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 01 MARCH 2019**

**RE: JASON ROHDE SENTENCED TO AN EFFECTIVE 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR HIS WIFE'S MURDER**

The CEO of a prestigious international realty company convicted for the murder of his wife and defeating or obstructing the administration of justice late last year, has been sentenced to 20 years direct imprisonment.

Yesterday, the Western Cape High Court sentenced Jason Rohde to 18 years direct imprisonment for the murder of his wife, Susan and to five years direct imprisonment for defeating or obstructing the administration of justice.

This is after Advocate Louis van Niekerk successfully asked the court to use its discretion and go beyond the prescribed minimum sentence of 15 years for the murder. He argued that the circumstances in which Susan Rohde was murdered demand that the court go beyond the prescribed minimum sentence. "There was a high degree of force that was used which caused the injuries. It was a vicious attack with a use of force. The accused acted callous, uncaring, and very cruel and with total disregard for the dignity of the deceased. He was ruthless and cold blooded and he brutally murdered her without conscious of the impact on the family of the deceased." Said van Niekerk.

Judge Gayaat Salie-Hlophe agreed and ordered that three years of the sentences imposed on count two run concurrently with that imposed on count 1. She further declared him unfit to possess a firearm.

The accused has been married to his wife for 22 years and the couple have three daughters. According to evidence presented in court, Rohde had an extra-marital affair in 2015 with a young woman who worked at the realty branch in Cape Town. Susan discovered the affair in February 2016 and after months of fighting, the accused agreed to end the affair. He never ended it and continued with his double life. Events leading to the murder started on the weekend of 22 – 24 July 2016 when International Realty held

its annual conference at Spier Hotel in Stellenbosch. The deceased wanted to attend the conference although the accused did not want her to, this led to other fights. Things came to a head on that evening of 22 July 2016 when the deceased asked that the couple retire in their room. The accused did not want to as he wanted to go party with his girlfriend and her friends. After a screaming match, the couple returned to the room and that is where the accused strangled his wife.

Advocate Van Niekerk added: "The cause of death was determined by the state pathologist as consistent with asphyxia following manual strangulation and external airway obstruction. A ligature imprint mark on the neck was of a post mortem nature. Moreover, Susan had sustained substantial and distinct injuries before her death. The manner, cause of death and nature of injuries sustained showed that the accused had the direct intention to kill Susan. Furthermore, he staged her death so that it appeared as if she had committed suicide, inter alia, by creating an alibi by calling upon a handy man from the hotel to come and unlock the bathroom door. The crimes the accused has been convicted of are very serious in nature. Evidence on intimate femicide indicates the prevalence thereof in South Africa compared to global data average, 57% vs 39%."

The NPA believes that justice prevailed and that the end of the case at the Western Cape High Court provides the family of the deceased with an opportunity for closure and mourn Susan Rohde. The NPA wishes to extend its heartfelt appreciation to the 23 state witness in the trial who independently provided the court with credible and reliable evidence that led to the conviction and sentence. We also wants to extend our appreciation to the two investigating officers of the Stellenbosch Police Station who worked tirelessly with the prosecutor to ensure a successful prosecution and sentence.

Kind Regards,

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape**

**Enquiries: [entabazalila@npa.gov.za](mailto:entabazalila@npa.gov.za)**

**073 062 1222**