

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

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

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: KILLER INMATE SENTENCED TO TWO LIFE TERMS

A 37 year-old inmate at Goedemoed Correctional Centre was today sentenced to two life terms after he pleaded guilty to murder of a correctional officer and raping another. Free State High Court Judge President Cagney Musi sentenced Madala Jongikhaya Sam-Sam to life imprisonment for murder of Norman Stuurman (35) and another life term for rape of another correctional officer aged 33 years. Sam-Sam was also slapped with an additional five years for kidnapping.

In a plea that was read to the court by his legal representative, Sam-Sam stated that on March 29, 2019, he was busy with his cleaning duties when he called a male officer on the pretext that there was a fight in one of the cells. The officer went to investigate leaving him with the two female warders.

Sam-Sam, who was already serving two life terms for murder, rape and assault, locked the steel door of the office with a padlock and barricaded the door with two tables. He was now alone in that section of the building with the two female hostages.

He started attacking Stuurman with a hammer. Correctional officers arrived and tried to persuade him to stop. The officers could not gain entry because he had barricaded the doors. He continued with his attack on the deceased and eventually left her lifeless body in the hallway. He attacked her with a hammer and stabbed her to death with a scissor.

Sam-Sam took the second warder to one of the offices, closed the door and threatened her with death before raping her. He then surrendered himself to the authorities.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Advocate Moipone Moroka, read to the court, victim impact statements of the deceased's husband and daughter, which detailed how the death of the deceased has affected them.

The daughter stated that she never thought her mother will die at the hands of an inmate while serving her country and she wanted to quit school because she could not cope after her mother's death. The husband stated that death of his wife has created an animosity between him and his in-laws as they suspect that he conspired to have his wife killed. The husband is also a correctional officer at the same prison.

Advocate Moroka called for a harsh punishment on the accused because the use of padlock and distraction of a male official indicate premeditation. "The accused planned the whole thing. He kept a scissor for three days in his possession before he could attack the deceased. In those three days, he had an opportunity to reflect and desist from committing these crimes", said Moroka.

In sentencing the accused, Judge Musi stated that he is convinced that the accused is a violent person and should be removed from society.

Phaladi Shuping

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Free State

Enquiries: pshuping@npa.gov.za

083 699 5900