

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: LIFE FOR RAPE, KIDNAPPING AND ASSAULT

The Pretoria North Regional Court sentenced Thabang Matjeke (27) from Soshanguve, Pretoria to one life term for rape, kidnapping and assault.

This is after magistrate, Phanael Motiang convicted Matjeke of seven counts of rape, two counts of assault and kidnapping and of an 18 and 19-year-old girls, on 13 April 2021.

Matjeke raped and assaulted the 19-year-old girl on 30 October 2018 in Soshanguve. The girl was walking from the shops in the early evening when she met Matjeke. He grabbed and dragged her to a nearby shack where he raped and assaulted her. At around 21h00 he let her go and walked her home. He told her not to tell anyone.

On 12 April 2019, the 18-year-old girl had gone to Wonderpark shopping mall where she met with Matjeke and exchanged numbers. The following day he asked her to meet him at Soshanguve crossing. They met and after spending time together at around 17h00 in the evening, Matjeke asked the girl to accompany him to his house to lock up so he can walk her home. Upon arrival, Matjeke locked the doors and began to assault her. He tied her feet and hands with a cable tie and proceeded to rape her, multiple times and throughout the night. The following day, while Matjeke had gone out the girl managed to untie herself and called for help through the window. She asked for a phone to call her mother who in turn called the girls' uncle who stayed close to where the girl was kept to go rescue her.

When Matjeke returned back to the house the uncle saw him. He apprehended him and was arrested the police.

In her Victim Impact Statement, she indicated that her marks at school dropped and she no longer trusted men. The Court Preparation Officer referred her for counselling and has been attending since.

In her closing statement, prosecutor Akani Mthobeni said although no jail amount of jail time can erase the emotional and psychological scars of both victims, a lengthy jail term will hopefully restore their faith in the justice system.

Matjeke has been in custody since his arrest in April 2019.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomed the sentence.

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