

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: LIFE AND 5 YEARS FOR MURDER AND KIDNAPPING

Nompumelelo Khumalo (29) was sentenced to life and 5 years imprisonment in the Pietermaritzburg High Court yesterday for the September 2017 kidnapping and murder of Ziphilile Dlamini in the Donnybrook area in Hlanganani.

Prior to the incident, a woman named Jwayelile Khubone learned that her boyfriend and the father of her children was having an affair with the deceased. She confided in the accused who is her niece. The accused knew the deceased and harboured ill feelings towards her.

Together, they planned to kidnap and assault the deceased. Under the guise of being thirsty, Khubone went to the deceased's home. After drinking water there, she asked the deceased for directions and lured her into a nearby forest where the accused lay in wait. The two women dragged the deceased into the forest where they gagged her and bound her to a tree.

Two days later, aware that the deceased's family were frantically searching for her, the two women returned to the forest armed with a bush knife. They took her further into the forest where they hacked her, beheaded her and dismembered her body. They buried her body parts in different graves. While parts of the body were recovered, the deceased's head and part of her right arm were never found.

On arrest, Khubone pleaded guilty. She was sentenced to 30 years direct imprisonment (25 years for murder and 5 years for kidnapping). The accused maintained her innocence throughout the trial. In addition to the evidence of police officials and the guilty plea of Khubone, State Advocate Suhana Singh presented the court with a victim impact statement compiled by the deceased's mother and facilitated by court preparation officer Babongile Chuene.

In the statement, she describes her daughter as a lively, respectful person who was their breadwinner. She said that she wished the accused had come to her and complained about her daughter then they could have talked about the matter without having to resort to murder. She expresses her disappointment that they had to bury her daughter with missing body parts.

The court sentenced the accused to life imprisonment for the murder and 5 years imprisonment for kidnapping.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in KwaZulu Natal, Adv. Moipone Noko said. "I hope that sentences of this nature, demonstrating the seriousness with which the justice system reacts to these heinous crimes, help to deter like-minded people. Well done to all NPA staff that contributed to this successful prosecution."

Kind Regards,

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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