

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 20 MARCH 2019

RE: MAN GETS LIFE & 24 YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT IN ANOTHER FEMICIDE CASE

Last week, the Western Cape High Court sentenced an abuser and murderer to life and 24 years direct imprisonment after convicting him on several counts including the murder of his girlfriend.

The court convicted Lloyd Simbarashe Hillary Dube on four counts of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, housebreaking, common assault and murder. This is despite the 41 year - old continued attempts to convince the court that he is mentally ill and cannot remember any of the gruesome crimes he is charged with.

Dube and Nikita Lewis were in an abusive relationship. Things came to a head on the morning of 19 August 2015, when the accused poured acid on Lewis' face. This is after the young woman refused his attempts to force her to move in with him. He also broke Lewis's grandmother's arm while he was trying to force himself into her house. He also beat up the deceased's mother.

His rudeness and disregard for the deceased and her family became so blatant to an extent that on 23 August 2015, the deceased's church minister went to see her at home and asked whether she would like to go to a place of safety. The deceased said that she would. A place at the Saartjie Baartment for Abused Women and Children was available for her to stay from the next day.

The deceased was looking forward to this new development and the beginning of a new chapter in her life. Unfortunately, this was the end. At 16h45 the deceased, Sherlon Smith and Farren Benn all domestic violence survivors from the Saartjie Baartment for Abused Women and Children walked to Pick 'n Save Superette, a shop approximately five minutes' walk from the shelter. They were on their way to buy party packs for their

children who were with them. They were dancing as they walked and listening to music on an MP3 Player. Their children were running up and down the pavement as they head towards the shop. They did not know what was awaiting them.

After they entered the shop, Dube went in and started quarrelling with Lewis. The women tried to stop the accused beating up Lewis but he beat them up knocking them down. As they ran towards the exit of the shop, he then sat on top of Lewis and repeatedly stabbed her. In the full glare of her new found friends and Mohammed Sahir Ahmed who managed the shop.

He stabbed the 23 year-old mother of one 34 times. Fortunately, Ahmed fought him off with a broomstick and forced him to sit down with his hands held up in the air. Lewis' friends, who earlier ran off, called for help and a security guard arrived and arrested Dube. In court, Dube pleaded insanity and memory loss.

Advocate Mbulelo Koti asked the court to refer the accused to the Valkenberg Psychiatric Hospital. The panel consisting of Dr Dyakalashe, Prof Kaliski and Prof Zabow agreed that: "He has a good understanding of the charges against him, and would be able to instruct his lawyer and follow court proceedings. Based on information available, there was no medical or psychiatric cause for his alleged amnesia."

During cross examination, he attempted to play the amnesia card again, by responding to questions from Advocate Koti saying: "You must remember that I am on medication. The medication I am on is for mentally ill people." "If I am not mistaken, I am sick." "I will repeat again, that at that time I was sick. I did not know where I was, nor could I remember the streets or remember anything." "I don't remember what was happening, whether I was sick or not sick. I only remember the people who were telling me I was sick."

The court saw through all that and convicted him. Last week, he was sentenced to 3 years direct imprisonment for the assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm against Lewis. He was sentenced to 5 years direct imprisonment for breaking into the house of Hilda Rhoda Isaacs, the deceased's grandmother. He was sentenced to 3 years direct imprisonment for the assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm against 75 year-old Isaacs. He received another 1 year sentence of direct imprisonment for assault to cause grievous bodily harm against Bonita Lewis, 6 months direct imprisonment for common assault against Farren Benn. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Nikita Lewis

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape

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