

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 13 AUGUST 2020**

**RE: MAN FOUND GUILTY FOR "SENSELESS MURDER"**

The Port Elizabeth High Court found Jerome Kiviets (26) guilty of the October 2018 senseless murder of 21 year-old Selwyn April. Judge Nyameko Gqamana also found him guilty of attempting to kill siblings who are April's relatives, Basheera and Johannes Deslinay Trompetter.

On the night of 06 October 2018, in Kleinskool, Port Elizabeth, April and a number of his relatives were looking for a place to purchase liquor. They met Kiviets and Christo Gouws and April's group enquired from the two whether they knew of any taverns which were open at that time.

The court heard that instead of helping, Gouws swore at the group and this led to a verbal altercation between him and April. Gouws then asked Kiviets for a firearm, he allegedly fatally shot April. April's relatives, among the Trompetter siblings, scrambled for safety.

The two Trompetters went back to the crime scene, the same morning and saw Kiviets, Gouws and another unknown man removing clothing items from the deceased.

Kiviets noticed the siblings and started firing at them. Fortunately, the two escaped unharmed. The Flying Squad Unit responded to the crime scene and found April's white pair of Nike sneakers at Gouws' house.

He was arrested that same day. Kiviets was also arrested on the same day. Police recovered April's brown jacket at his place of residence. Gouws has since passed away.

State prosecutor, Advocate Mark Driman, told the court that the murder of April was another act of senseless violence in the infamous Northern Areas of Port Elizabeth.

"Another young man in the prime of his life, robbed of his most basic human right, the right to life. Another mother will now only visit another gravesite with flowers. Selwyn April decided to place his final year engineering studies on hold to go and work to assist his single mother. May the court not deviate from the prescribed minimum sentence of life imprisonment," he said.

Judge Gqamana said that "the version of the accused is riddled with improbabilities. He spiced up his version as he went along. He was economical with the truth". Kiviets was further found guilty of theft, unlawful possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition.

The matter has been remanded to 19 August for sentencing.

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