

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 28 MAY 2015**

**RE: LIFE IMPRISONMENT HANDED TO A MAN WHO KILLED WELL-KNOWN TYGERBERG HOSPITAL PAEDIATRICIAN**

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This morning Marthinus van der Walt (35) was sentenced to life imprisonment and 15 years at the Western Cape High Court after he was convicted for the robbery and murder of the well-known Tygerberg Hospital paediatrician Dr Louis Heyns. Dr Heyns went missing on the evening of May 22, 2013 after leaving his brother's house. His body was found eight days later in a shallow grave in the bushy area of Strand beachfront.

Sentencing Van der Walt, Western Cape High Court Judge Andre le Grange said he did not think that he would be rehabilitated. He said the accused started his crime career at the age of 17 and has since been arrested for various crimes including housebreaking, fraud and theft. He killed Dr Heyns four months after he was released from prison after serving three and half years on a car theft case. He received plenty of opportunities to change his ways and rehabilitate himself but he never used them.

A few days later Van der Walt and his brother, Sarel, were arrested and charged with kidnapping, robbery with aggravating circumstances and murder. The state alleged he kidnapped, robbed the doctor of his vehicle and murdered him. The vehicle was traced to the yard of Malmesbury businessman and scrapyard owner, Juan Liedeman.

Sarel van der Walt entered into a plea and sentencing agreement with the state. He pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact to the murder and theft. He was sentenced to seven years. He also entered a plea bargain and sentencing agreement and was handed a R10 000 fine or five years behind bars. Half the fine and sentence was suspended for five years.

The NPA welcomes this sentence as Advocate Samantha Raphels strongly argued for a life imprisonment. "He is a danger to society if you look at the brutality of the crime. This

man had direct intention to murder Dr Heyns. The doctor had injuries all over his body. He had injuries to his brain, the base of the skull, had cracked ribs and injuries in the abdomen area”, Advocate Raphels added.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

Issued by:

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