

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST DUO SENTENCED

Last week, the Secunda Regional Court convicted and sentenced Thulani Khumalo (21) and Morena Khaba (21) of Standerton to various sentences for multiple counts of rape, kidnapping and assault with grievous bodily harm (GBH). The victims were between the ages of 14 to 15 years and were residing in the same area.

The court heard that the accused would kidnap their victims, keep them in a certain house for days, force them to lie down and take turns in raping them. The most remarkable incident happened in January 2013, the accused kidnapped the victims, kept them and took turns in raping them.

Accused 2 was a suspect in respect of other complainants and was arrested while he was in the company of the third complainant. This was after the matter was reported to the police by one of the neighbours. Khaba was further charged with 3 further counts of rape, assault with grievous bodily harm and kidnapping of the third complainant that took place on 21 January 2013 to 22 January 2013 and was arrested.

Both accused pleaded not guilty to the charges, however, the Regional Court Prosecutor, Phumzile Nkosi, led testimonies of the first and the second traumatised victims who told the court how the rape incidents happened, evidence of witnesses. The prosecutor further led DNA evidence which linked accused 2 with complainant number 3 in the matter. Victim impact statements were also submitted.

During sentencing, the court found no substantial and compelling circumstances to deviate from the minimum prescribed sentence. Both accused were found guilty as charged.

Accused 1, was facing 11 counts of rape and 1 count of kidnapping and was sentenced to 15 years each per count of rape and 5 years for kidnapping. The sentence in count 2 will run concurrently with the sentence in count 1 which means Khumalo will serve 20 years direct imprisonment.

Accused 2 was facing 14 counts of rape, 2 counts of kidnapping and 1 count of assault with GBH and was sentenced to life imprisonment per count of rape (14 life sentences), 5 years each for each count of kidnapping and 1 year for assault as he was convicted on assault not assault with GBH. The presiding officer ordered the sentence in count 2 and 3 to run concurrently with the sentence in count 1. Effectively, Khaba will serve 1 life imprisonment term.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to those who commit similar crimes.

Kind Regards,

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