

# Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:  
[media@npa.gov.za](mailto:media@npa.gov.za)

Victoria & Griffiths  
Mxenge Building  
123 Westlake Avenue  
Weavind Park  
Silverton  
Pretoria

[www.npa.gov.za](http://www.npa.gov.za)

**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 2020**

**RE: SANDF SOLDIER SENTENCED TO LIFE AND 170 YEARS**

Thembinkosi American Ngcobo, a soldier with the South African Defence Force (SANDF), was sentenced to a term of life and 170 years imprisonment in the Durban High Court today for the spate of offences he committed on 31 January 2017.

Ngcobo held a military post in Upington and was in a relationship with a woman, Ntokozo Mbambo, who lived in Inanda. He suspected her of being unfaithful to him and thus abandoned his post and travelled to Kwa-Zulu Natal, armed with a state-issued R4 rifle.

He drove to Ntokozo's house where he found her sister and another relative. He opened fire on them, killing the sister and wounding the relative. Realising that Ntokozo was not there; he drove to her brother's house in Richmond farm. Her brother was standing on the road. Ngcobo threatened him with the firearm and took him inside the house in search of Ntokozo. Ngcobo stole his cellphone before he could flee.

By this time, members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) had learned about the shooting and were informed by the deceased's family that Ngcobo was driving a white car. They spotted him on the way and blockaded the road in an attempt to stop him. Ngcobo opened fire on them, injuring several officers as well as other civilians.

He then fled and surrendered himself to the police two days later.

In court, State Advocate Krishan Shah led eyewitness testimonies and expert evidence on the ballistics. Advocate Shah also made an application to the court to admit hearsay evidence from two eyewitnesses (Ntokozo's sister and mother) who were killed two months before this trial could commence. One of the complainants, a SAPS official told the court that he could not continue with work as the incidents left him with flashbacks.

Another complainant had to have two of his toes amputated due to the injuries caused by the incident.

The accused was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, 120 years imprisonment for the 12 counts of attempted murder, 15 years for kidnapping, 15 years for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 15 years for the unlawful possession of a fully automatic firearm and 5 years imprisonment for the unlawful possession of ammunition.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Advocate Elaine Zungu said, "The NPA welcomes the conviction and sentence. The sentence is a sure sign that the Criminal Justice System is hard at work trying to make a safer society. This is the desired outcome for us and goes a long way in achieving a community where people can live in freedom and security."

**Natasha Kara**  
**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**  
**Enquiries: [nramkisson@npa.gov.za](mailto:nramkisson@npa.gov.za)**  
**0716700229**