

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 07 AUGUST 2019**

**RE: SCHOOL BOY KILLER SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS DIRECT IMPRISONMENT**

The Western Cape High Court has sentenced Heinrich Rossouw to 30 years direct imprisonment and fixed a 20 year non-parole period during which the accused shall not be placed on parole. This is after the court convicted him for the murder of nine year-old, Gerswin Johnson, who he brutally murdered while the little boy and his younger brother were on their way to school.

The court further ordered the Director General of the Department of Social Development to place the name of the accused on the register of those convicted of committing crimes against children so that he is unsuitable to work with children. The court also found Rossouw unfit to possess a firearm.

The accused's conviction and sentence comes on the back of a gruesome crime he committed on the morning of 2 August 2017. In his plea explanation, he states that in the early hours of the day he smoked tik and mandrax mixed with dagga. He then fell asleep, woke up later that morning, and smoked the remaining dagga. He decided to take a walk up the mountain near his house and later when he was sitting in an open field Marula Street in Beverly Hills, Kleinmond, he saw the young boy and his younger brother on their way to school. He says he asked them why they were not at school and the deceased threw his school bag on the ground and swore at him.

He says he strangled the deceased, took out a knife and stabbed him in the neck, the face and chest. While stabbing the little boy, he saw a rock nearby, picked it up and crushed his skull with it. The deceased died on the scene. The accused was arrested at his home the same day after an eyewitness identified him.

He says he was overcome with remorse hence he decided to enter into a plea and sentencing agreement with the state. In arguments in aggravation of sentence, Advocate Liezel Scholzel told the court that the deceased was only 9 years old when the accused murdered him in a callous and vicious manner, for no apparent reason. "During what can be described as an "over-kill", the young boy was throttled and stabbed in his chest, neck, throat and face causing severe bleeding and, causing him to aspirate blood into his lungs, before blows were administered to his head with a large rock. He was alive throughout the ordeal up until the fatal head injuries, as is evident from the fact that he inhaled finely fragmented brain tissue into his lungs with his last reflex breath. The deceased's younger brother, who had to witness his brother's particularly brutal murder, is still extremely traumatised by the incident, to the extent that he refuses to accept to undergo counselling and confront what he had witnessed. Crimes toward children, similar to these committed by the accused, are extremely prevalent, with Western Cape child murders ranking the highest in the country," she concluded in her arguments.

Kind Regards,

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape**

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