

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 06 DECEMBER 2018**

**RE: TWO MEN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR SHOOTING A SIX MONTHS OLD BABY**

The Western Cape High Court sent another very clear message that incidents of the most vulnerable being caught on crossfire of gang shootings will not be tolerated, as it sends two men to prison for life.

Christopher September and Larry Johnson were both handed heavy sentences following their convictions on a count of murder, six counts of attempted murder, illegal possession of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition. September was sentenced to life imprisonment and 62 years direct imprisonment while Johnson was sentenced to life and 66 years direct imprisonment.

Johnson's mother, Mariam, who was convicted on a charge of defeating or obstructing the administration of justice, was sentenced to five years direct imprisonment wholly suspended for five years on condition that she is not convicted of such a charge again during the period of suspension.

The events leading to this sentencing started on the afternoon of 30 December 2016, where Bradley Robyn was sitting with his friends in front of his mother's house on Carnation Road, Ocean View. He had his six months old daughter, Zahnia Woodward on his lap while talking with his friends. His daughter spat her dummy and as he picked it up, he heard gunshots. Robyn told the court that he looked up and saw a white Golf shooting in their direction. He said he turned his back towards the vehicle in order to protect his daughter unaware that she had a bullet hole in her head.

After the drive-by shooting, he took his daughter to hospital in the vehicle of Joseph "Timer" Jethro, a well-known member and leader of the Junky Funky Kids where she was certified dead. Robyn was shot in his lower back. His other friends who survived the

shootings were Abdulkader Fortune, Abdul Abrahams, Cedric Sibulele Dyeni, Shaneeka Jansen and Peter Robyn.

The accused were sentenced to ten years direct imprisonment for each of the attempted murders. They were also sentenced to five years for the illegal possession of a firearm and illegal possession of ammunition. Both were declared unfit to possess a firearm.

The white Golf that was used in the shooting was dumped in Masiphumelele Township close to the house of accused two's mother. Johnson instructed his mother to hide the vehicle. Maria asked Sanza Ndlovu to move the vehicle but the steering was locked and there was no key. Simaney Kindo, Maria's niece, went to fetch the key from 'Jesus' at Fish Hoek Train Station and the vehicle was moved and hidden. Maria insisted that the vehicle must be moved or the police would see it. The car was moved to various places on the instruction of Maria who repeatedly raised her concern that the police will see the car.

This was another child murder, which are very common in the Western Cape. During the trial, Advocate Liezel Herbst presented evidence on the prevalence of child murders in the province. She called Colonel Eddie Clarke from the Organised Crime Unit who told the court that between April 2017 and March 2018, 197 children were murdered in the Western Cape. Thirty-four (34) of these murders were gang related. These were committed in the Cape Flats and areas like Atlantis and Worcester. "I called the mother and grandmother of the deceased to testify in mitigation of sentence, as well as Col Clarke of the Organised Crime Unit to testify about statistics of child murders during the financial year of 2017/18, the statistics of child murders involving gang violence, and murder statistics in the Western Cape in general. I argued for life sentence to be imposed on accused 1 and 2, as they were convicted of a planned murder, acting on a common purpose," Advocate Herbst said.

Kind Regards,

**Eric Ntabazalila**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP Western Cape**

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