

19 May 2026

Prof Firoz Cachalia
The Acting Minister
Ministry of Police

E-MAIL: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lieutenant General Dimpane
The Acting National Commissioner
South African Police Service

E-MAIL: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Minister and Madam Commissioner,

RE: FAILURE TO TRACE AND ARREST ALL KNOWN SUSPECTS AND ACCUSED PERSONS

1. This correspondence seeks to underscore the dire failure of proficient crime detection as referenced in the heading.
2. We address this correspondence to your office as the duly appointed legal representatives of the complainants referred to hereunder.
3. Advocates Gerrie Nel and Phyllis Vorster carry a formal brief to act on their behalf.

June 2024

Address: 58 Union Avenue, Kloofsig, Centurion • **Tel.:** 086 10 200 30
Member Affairs – Email: ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.
Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

4. We write this at a time when the trust deficit between society and the SAPS is widening every day. We have four senior Police Generals appearing in court as accused persons, an acting National Commissioner, and an Acting Minister of Police. We are confronted daily with shocking revelations emanating from the Madlanga and other Commissions.
5. The realisation that the Head of the SAPS, the Head and deputy head of the SAPS' Intelligence Service, and the Head of the Hawks in Gauteng are all facing criminal charges does little to instil trust in the SAPS.
6. The purpose of this letter is to implore the SAPS to fulfil their constitutionally mandated duty to combat and investigate crime, protect and secure the inhabitants of the country, and uphold and enforce the law. More specifically, we urge the police to act on the cases outlined below and to ensure justice for the victims by bringing the perpetrators to book.
7. In doing so, we will demonstrate how the disproportionate allocation of resources exposes the lip service SAPS pays to protecting and securing justice for ordinary citizens who have fallen victim to crime, particularly in cases of gender-based violence. (GBV).
8. We refer to the following matters:

8.1. Wierdabrug CAS 108/12/2022 (Attempted murder)

On 6 December 2022, the accused, Gregory Wynand Kleynhans, allegedly stabbed the victim, Helena Fairlie, multiple times with a screwdriver. He was arrested and appeared in court that day, but was released soon thereafter. The matter was set down for trial on 28 October 2024, but the accused failed to appear. To date, he has not been located, despite the SAPS having all his particulars.

8.2. Cleveland CAS 04/08/2021 (Rape) and Cleveland CAS 46/09/2021 (attempted murder)

On 31 August 2021, our client was allegedly kidnapped at gunpoint by her ex-boyfriend, Mbongiseni Welcome Zwane, and raped. In the second incident, on 6 September 2021, our client was exiting a vehicle when she was shot at point-blank range several times by the same ex-boyfriend who had raped her the previous month. The victim remains in hiding, as she fears the suspect will return to kill her. To date, the suspect has not been located or brought to justice, similarly with SAPS having all his details.

8.3. Garsfontein CAS 174/10/2025 (Assault GBH)

On 13 October 2025, Lethabo Mokhatshane allegedly assaulted his elderly employer, Susanna Lourens. The attack was captured on surveillance footage, which, together with information relating to the alleged assailant, was provided to the investigating officer. To date, the suspect has not been located, arrested, or brought before the court.

8.4. Brakpan CAS 143/10/2021 (Rape of a minor)

The accused, Thulasizwe Mkhize, was arrested and made his first court appearance in February 2023, when he was granted bail. As has become the norm, the case was postponed on numerous occasions. On 15 July 2024, the accused failed to appear in court, and a warrant for his arrest was issued. To date, he has not been located, despite the SAPS having all his particulars. We remind you that he is accused of raping a child and, while he continues to evade justice, he may commit similar offences.

8.5. Mbazwana CAS 01/03/2024 (Fraud and possible murder)

The victim, John Dercksen, also known as John Matambu, was last seen on 16 March 2024, when he went out to sea on a chartered boat for a fishing trip with the suspect, Thomas Frederick Visser, also known as Ferdi Visser. That evening, witnesses placed Visser at a village in Mozambique, near where the chartered boat was later found torched. Dercksen has not been seen since. Despite numerous sightings of Visser in Mozambique and South Africa, for which information has been relayed to the SAPS, Visser has not been located or arrested.

Notably, it must not be ignored that the same wanted person is sought on another matter referenced under **Nelspruit CAS 7/09/2015**, where he pursued his victim, drugged her, stripped her and after writing messages on her body, photographed her. The complainant suffered a horrific and demeaning sexual assault, and Visser inexplicably remains out of reach of SAPS.

8.6. Pretoria North CAS 154/6/2016 (Murder)

In June 2016, Mr Hendrik Joahannes du Toit was shot several times in an armed robbery and died three months later. Years later, after our office intervened, a suspect was identified and eventually arrested. The trial had started, and his wife and son had already testified, but in November last year, he failed to appear in court. Once again, the police have failed to locate and arrest an alleged murderer.

This case is a decade old.

9. In all the aforementioned cases, it appears that the police have given up and will make no further effort to trace and locate the suspects and accused persons who have allegedly committed vile crimes against women and children. The police's failure to ensure their

arrest and appearance in court is a shocking indictment of their supposed commitment to protecting the most vulnerable in society.

10. Our clients feel abandoned by the investigating officers. In some instances, false hope of referenced police procedure, that cases have been transferred to a “tracing unit”, is further disquieting by the failure or refusal by them to communicate with the victims of crime.
11. This attitude stands in stark contrast to the significant effort made by a specialised task team to secure the arrest and detention of Mr Fadiel Adams, a Member of Parliament accused of fraud and defeating the ends of justice. Although the police reportedly raided at least two incorrect addresses, allegedly assaulting a child in the process, they persisted for several days to ensure that their suspect was detained. They even issued a media statement urging Adams to hand himself over.
12. Within a week of Adams’ arrest, the State was ready to present video evidence of his interviews and social media posts during his bail application. Once again, this stands in stark contrast to our client, Ms Lourens, having to plead with the police for months to collect video evidence of her being violently attacked, knocked unconscious and repeatedly assaulted.
13. During Adams’ bail application, the investigating officer stated that the accused had *“made fun of the South African police services and the criminal justice system”*. He went further to say that Adams’ conduct has *“attracted significant public attention and scrutiny, which has the potential to erode public trust and confidence in law enforcement institutions, prosecutorial processes and the judiciary. Public confidence in the criminal justice system is fundamental to maintaining law and order.”*

14. As discussed *infra*, the public has already lost confidence in law-enforcement institutions and prosecutorial processes. This glaring ineptness we submit is evidenced by President Cyril Ramaphosa's decision to establish a Commission of Inquiry, rather than ensuring that senior police officers who possess evidence of corruption within SAPS investigate the cases and refer them for prosecution.
15. It is the police's use of inordinate resources in pursuing politically sensitive cases, while apparently shrugging their shoulders when alleged rapists and murderers evade capture, that contributes to the loss of confidence in the authorities.
16. We know that holding a press conference flanked by armed guards will not motivate the police to perform their duties. However, we do expect the National Commissioner to ensure that every case receives adequate attention and that those accused of serious, violent offences are located and arrested. The failure to do so is made worse when the police have been provided with sufficient evidence, as is the case in all the matters discussed above.
17. Significantly, the SAPS fail to publish as part of their annual statistics the percentage of arrest warrants successfully executed.
18. Accepting that our cases represent only a minute sample of the many other victims whom the police have seemingly abandoned, we nevertheless urge your respective offices to ensure that the respective investigating officers act on the available evidence and secure the accused's attendance in court. This public step may serve as a significant motivator for law enforcement officers across the country to ensure justice for crime victims.
19. It cannot be too much to ask victims to be kept abreast of police efforts to execute arrest warrants in their matters, or to be provided with meaningful reasons for the failure to do so.

20. Your response and feedback regarding the status are anticipated.

Yours sincerely,



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