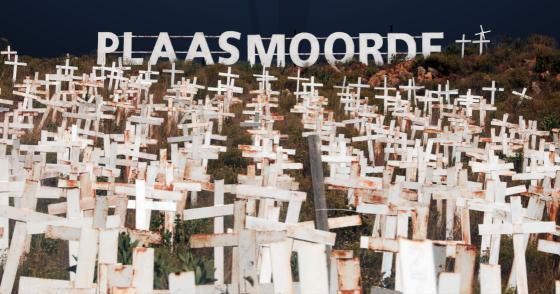
TRUTH BE TO L D

CAMPAIGN REPORT ISSUED BY LEX LIBERTAS

Compiled & Edited by Marie-Louise de Nysschen





FOREWORD

On the 21st of May, 2025, President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the White House for his much-anticipated meeting with President Donald Trump. This came as a result of President Trump signing an Executive Order on the 8th of February granting Afrikaners refugee status in the USA, as well as rising tensions from other diplomatic factors.

During the meeting, President Trump mainly focused on the political crisis in South Africa, which includes threats of expropriation of private property without compensation and safety concerns, while President Ramaphosa focused on economics, emphasising trade with the US government.

In the aftermath of the meeting, there were reactions from all quarters. Some commentators labelled the claims regarding South Africa as "false" and "conspiracy theories," claiming to have "debunked" the footage shown in the White House. One talk show host even went as far as describing these videos as "deepfakes," to the amusement of his audience. The fact that the killing of white farmers and the persecution of minorities in South Africa has become a laughing matter is utterly disturbing. The victims of these crimes are either no longer alive to tell their stories, or they have no hope of being heard by a government that treats them as second-class citizens, whose stories should not be told.

This is why Lex Libertas launched the Truth Be Told Campaign: to share the testimonies of people who were attacked, tortured, raped, or killed on farms in South Africa. But more than that, to show the world that persecution of minorities is a reality. This often happens through racial exclusion, threats to property rights, incitement of violence, and political scapegoating.

We encouraged members of the public in South Africa to submit their experiences in one of these categories:

FARM ATTACKS RACIAL EXCLUSION & DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES THREATS TO PROPERTY RIGHTS GENERAL STATE COLLAPSE

Truth Be Told is a campaign to amplify voices that have been ignored, silenced, overlooked and failed by the ANC in the cruelest way possible over the past 30 years. It's about real people, real experiences, and real consequences. When truth is told, change becomes possible.

Note that some of the individuals have asked to remain anonymous because they fear that their participation in this report could harm them in some way.

Furthermore, this is the first edition of this document, as it will be updated in due time.

Marie-Louise de Nysschen

Editor



JUANITA SWANEPOEL

Date 2021 Location Freestate, South Africa



We stay on a farm in the Free State. My husband and I contracted COVID-19. We were extremely ill, and he was hospitalized in the ICU. Due to this, I was alone on the farm. I was still extremely weak from having COVID-19. We had four dogs outside, and my Jack Russell was inside with me. We have security gates in our passageway, and additionally, there was a Trellidor security gate in front of my bedroom door.

On 10 July 2021, at about 01:50 a.m., I was woken by a sound that I cannot describe in words. Lollie, my Jack Russell, started barking viciously. My room is equivalent to a bomb shelter and has no windows. I knew this was real, and this was a farm attack. The brutal force the attackers used to break down the security gate in the hallway will remain with me forever. I gathered myself, thinking I am so ill and weak - will I be able to defend myself? I phoned my mother first, asking her to try and get hold of my son because I knew whatever happened from that point forward was going to be bad. She was hysterical because she could hear how the attackers were breaking down doors to get to me.

I also phoned Johan from "Plaasveiligheid" (Community safety structures), asking him to stay on the phone with me. I wanted it witnessed and recorded. He mobilized the farming community. When the attackers reached my bedroom door and started breaking it down with brutal force, I gave a verbal warning. Then I started shooting through the door with my 9mm, but the attackers kept coming, thinking that the door would be forced open at any second. The second magazine of the 9mm jammed, and I then took the shotgun, knowing I must keep my cool and NOT shoot the door on its knob to open it for the attackers. I kept on shooting until there were no bullets left, and whilst reloading, I was told over the phone that help had arrived. They did not manage to get to me physically, and I defended myself successfully whilst I was at my weakest, but the damage to my house was enormous.

The trauma, especially emotional trauma and aftermath, has been horrendous. I was told that, according to the footprints, there were more than 10 attackers. All my dogs were killed with organophosphate (two step), including Lollie. No one was arrested. A few months later, the police contacted me via SMS and said the case was closed "undetected." Later on, my husband questioned why the case was registered as housebreaking and theft, and the police threatened to arrest him.

Case No: Vierfontein CAS 10/07/21

GAVIN LEWIS

Date 2019 & 2024 Location North West, South Africa



I was attacked and assaulted on my farm between Klerksdorp and Ventersdorp in 2019. Among other things, I was hit over the head with a shovel by squatters who were occupying my land.

I also survived a farm attack in 2024 where they held my housekeeper, my parents, and all our workers hostage all night, threatened them, and stole weapons along with many other items. During the second attack, they also assaulted two of the farmworkers.

Case No: Klerksdorp CAS 187/9/2019 & Klerksdorp CAS 156/12/2024

ELMIEN CHRISTIE

Date 2013 Location North West, South Africa



It's Sunday morning on the Sterkstroom Farm. The Stiglingh couple are up early, getting ready for church. My father, Johan, quickly went to check on the cattle in the field, and my mother, Corra, was busy in the house.

We are not sure what happened first. What we do know is that mom was charged at and hit with something hard. She tried to block her face, and in the process, her elbow was broken. Dad was hit in the face with an old pickaxe, so hard that his nose was broken, and his skull was cracked. We suspect my dad stumbled backward and fell down the steps outside. There, they kicked and hit him repeatedly. The evidence was visible in the bloodstain on the grass. After my mother fell, she was dragged to their bedroom. Attacker one tied her hands in front of her and ordered her to lie on her stomach on the bed, shouting in Afrikaans that she should shut up.

My parents weren't rich. They were honest, hardworking farmers who struggled to make ends meet and gave their best for their three daughters. This nightmare is not easy to tell. My mother shared some of the details, and others we had to hear in court.

While my mother was lying on the bed, they kept hitting and kicking her, asking where the money was and where the key to the safe was. She kept begging them to just take what they wanted. At that stage, they must have dragged my father back into the house. Later, we heard that there was a streak of blood from outside, in front of the kitchen door, all the way into their bedroom, where he was lying on his chest on the carpet. One of his ears was partly torn off his scalp. My mother begged to know if my father was still alive because she couldn't see him, but she could hear him breathing raggedly. Attacker one shouted at her to shut up and told her, "You can hear that he is dying." He then stuffed a cloth in her mouth and brutally raped her, while my mother could hear my father's breathing grow fainter until he was silent. Later, my mother said that she just wanted to get to my father to help him that was all she focused on.



She could then hear them moving around the house. When she could no longer hear them, she cut her hands free with a knife. She found Dad in a pool of blood and he was no longer breathing. She then called for help on the two-way radio but wasn't sure if anyone would hear, since it was Sunday morning and most people would be at church. The landline was dead, and both of their cellphones had been stolen. She then grabbed the keys to my dad's bakkie and. with her broken arm and mangled body, drove to the nearest neighboring farm to call for help. The neighbors she drove to were home. One of them was a retired detective who immediately rushed to our farm. He cordoned off the area until the police arrived to collect evidence from the scene. Ventersdorp Police and detectives provided excellent service, documenting evidence and taking detailed photos. Within hours, one attacker was arrested, thanks to the cooperation of farmers, workers, and police in the area. Three days later, attacker two was also arrested.

My mother attended my father's funeral the day after she was discharged from the hospital in a wheelchair. She was still too weak to stand for long periods. Our entire family's life changed in just a few minutes. These emotional wounds do not heal. The attack was cruelty-driven and hatefueled. It is disturbing that my mother was later able to identify the two perpetrators. They were temporary workers on the farm who had grown up in the area. The whole court process was another painful few months we had to endure. But at least the judge was merciless, the forensic evidence was thorough, and both perpetrators were sentenced to two consecutive life sentences. I will not mention their names because, to me, they are just two demons who ruined - no, stole - my parents' lives.

Our children would never again have the privilege of hearing my Dad's unique giggle-laugh or looking into his soft blue eyes. They would never be able to go herding sheep with Grandpa or walk to the stream with Grandma and the dogs. That December, we decided to sell the farm.

It was incredibly difficult to make that decision, especially since it was the place where we grew up - where we knew love and peace in abundance. All of this was stolen from us. All we have now are beautiful memories of our childhood. My mother fought very hard and tried really hard to be okay. But she just couldn't, and she didn't want to live without my father anymore. She kept withering away and locking herself away somewhere in her mind. We all kept giving love, and we all wished she would get better again and be the mother and grandmother we knew. On March 2, 2025, she passed away alone in her bed, in her sleep.

I promised myself that as long as I breathe, I will continue to talk about farm murders. Those who don't believe it must wake up and face the truth. This is a reality!! Is this what a farmer's life is worth in South Africa? A few rand, two cellphones, a pistol, and a hunting rifle?? The truth must come out!! Enough is enough. God doesn't sleep!

SONJA BOSHOFF

Date 2007 Location Free State, South Africa



In 2007, my older sister Karin Vermaak was attacked on a farm outside Odendaalrus. She lived alone, and they attacked her at night, torturing her for hours before leaving her for dead. It was a planned attack; they watched her for a few days, hiding in the bush next to the house. Firearms and jewelry were stolen. Her life was destroyed, and she was never the same again.

Date 2024 Location North West, South Africa

On October 25, 2024, my son, Ian Boshoff, was attacked and murdered on the farm Snymanshof in Buffelshoek. He was alone with his dog, Buddy, a German Shorthair Pointer. He was a game farm manager. His body was only discovered the next day after hunters could not reach him and contacted the neighbor. He and rural security staff came across his body. He had been shot twice, wrapped in a blanket, and dragged behind the bar. There were also signs of a struggle outside. Buddy was locked in the house. Four people were arrested; two of them are in prison. One admitted to shooting Ian. His safe, along with his weapons, was looted, except for his hunting rifles. His house was ransacked. Our lives will never be the same again.

Case No: Buffelshoek CAS 14/10/2024

SAMANTHA VAN AS

Date 1994 **Location** Free State, South Africa

In August 1994, my 74-year-old father-in-law, James van As, was brutally attacked in his home on a smallholding outside Bloemfontein. He was hacked to death with an axe and was unrecognisable. Along with the axe, a blood-stained baton was also found in the house. He was discovered by a neighbour. The 24-year-old gardener was arrested on charges of murder, aggravated robbery, and escape from custody.

2010 Date **Location** Eastern Cape, South Africa

In 2010, my husband's cousin, Floris Kruger, was robbed, brutally tortured, shot in the face, and dumped in a field outside Port Elizabeth by six men who had previous convictions. They were eventually sentenced in 2018 after eight years in custody.

These crimes are real.



Tuinier het bejaarde na bewering met byl doodgekap

Sobeth Bester

DIE bejaarde man van Ba vlei wat in Augustus 1995 w op sy kleinhoewe vermoo mnr. James Ford van As is na bewering deur sy to met onder meer 'n byl do

Die tuinier, mnr. Patric supeng (24), staan in die geregshof in Bloemfontei regter A.P. van Coller to aanklagte van moord, re verswarende omstandig

Man in hof weens moord op bejaarde

'n JONG man van Bainsvlei in Bloemfontein het gister vlugtig in die landdroshof in verband met die moord op mnr. James van As (76) van Bainsvlei ver skyn.

Mnr. Patrick Sello Mosupir (23) van Kleinspringkra Bainsvlei, Bloemfontein, m weer op 27 Oktober in die l

Mnr. Van As van hoewe Bainsvlei, se bebloede lyk is 9 Augustus deur 'n buurma sy huis onder 'n deken or kombuisvloer gekry. Mnr. As is vermoedelik met s byl doodgekap.

CHANTELLE GELDENHUYS & CHRISTINE ABREU DE JESUS

Date 2022 Location Limpopo, South Africa

On September 6, 2022, our lives were shattered when my stepfather, Niko Steenekamp, was brutally murdered on our family farm in Northam, Limpopo. The crime was committed by a farm worker, assisted by a Zimbabwean accomplice. What makes this even more painful is not just the brutality of the act but also the complete failure of the police to assist us when we needed them the most.



On that day, my stepfather went missing without a trace. After searching for him ourselves, we discovered his bakkie (truck) abandoned next to a road. We immediately contacted the police to report him as missing. Shockingly, the response we received over the phone was, "What do you want us to do?" No one was sent to help us. No attempt was made to look for him. We were left to fend for ourselves in one of the most terrifying moments of our lives. Neighbors from surrounding farms came to help.

While I was still at the police station - more than two hours later - trying to open a missing person case, our farming community found his body. He had been tied up, gagged, and hidden in the bushes, covered with branches and leaves in an attempt to conceal the murder. The police, even after learning this, still showed no urgency.

The condition of his body was horrifying. Almost every bone had been broken. His head was nearly beaten in half. This was a man who had just retired - not even for a full month - at the age of 60, hoping to enjoy his life in peace after working so hard. Instead, he suffered a violent death at the hands of someone he had given a job and a place to stay.

To make matters worse, the Zimbabwean accomplice was later released. Even though stolen items from our home were found in his possession, the police failed to collect fingerprints from the house, which could have directly linked him to the crime scene. Because of this clear negligence, he was

never held accountable. The South African farm worker, who planned and led the attack, was eventually arrested - but that does not change the fact that the justice system failed us when we needed it most.

NETWERK24

8 September 2022

MAN MURDERED JUST AFTER STARTING HIS DREAM OF FARMING

What we went through was not only traumatic but deeply unfair. We lost someone we loved in a senseless act of violence and then had to watch as the police treated our pain and fear with cold indifference. Their lack of action, incompetence, and failure to do even the basics of their job have left us with lasting pain and anger. My stepfather was more than a victim. He was a kind, hardworking man who deserved dignity and justice - both in life and in death. We will never stop seeking the truth and demanding accountability. His story deserves to be told. Justice must still be served.

HEIDIE TALJAARD

Date

2020

Location Northern Cape, South Africa



My parents Dan and Breggie, and my sister Elzabie Brand were murdered on their farm in Hartswater, Northern Cape, on July 26, 2020.

I spoke to them on Sunday afternoon and my dad told me that they were about to have lunch. On Monday, my other sister and I couldn't get a hold of them. We asked a friend to please go and check on them, because they sometimes forgot to charge their cellphones. His response shattered my whole life. "I'm so sorry. There's trouble here. The back door was broken open. There's a lot of blood. We can't find them..."

With those words, your life, as you knew it, falls apart. Anxiety and desperate

fear grip your heart, your chest, your entire being. You pray with everything in you, "Please Father, protect them, keep them safe, bring them back to us?" You try to believe, you try to hope. Until all hope is taken away from you with the news that the police have found their bodies. It feels like someone is ripping your heart out of your chest piece by piece and all you can do is sink to the ground in a bundle. And you cry. The kind of cry that tears your insides open. And then you know... Nothing will ever be the same again. My sister and I identified their bodies. The shock and unspeakable pain of seeing your loved ones' mangled bodies, so fragile and vulnerable, changes you. The signs of the horror, anguish and fear they must have gone through were etched all over their bodies.

They were attacked just after Sunday afternoon lunch. We suspect they lured my father outside and attacked him there. Mum heard this and went outside to help him. We could see that they both tried bravely to fight back. Dad's hands were wounded... Mum had cuts on her arms and face. In the end, they trapped her in the house and slit her throat... The attackers loaded her body, along with Dad and Elzabie, my sister, into their vehicles and drove them into the veld in Taung. The attackers hid Mom's body and then they first killed Dad and then Elzabie. Dad had more than 12 life-threatening blows to his skull alone. In court we heard that Elzabie was very likely still alive when they left her injured in the freezing winter night. According to the pathologist, she eventually died of suffocation.

My sister and I have attended every court day in recent years. Apparently the motive was to steal our parents' two vehicles (old and of no value). However, the attackers drove the vehicles through rough terrain and rocks and both vehicles were completely destroyed.



The five suspects were finally sentenced in March 2025. They were found guilty of murder, assault, and theft, but they were only sentenced to 25 years for each murder and they are serving the sentences concurrently.

A cross planted for the murdered. Here, the crosses for Danie and Elzabie Brand can be seen in a field filled with crosses, each one representing a murdered farmer. This field is known as the "Witkruismonument" or White Cross Monument. This is also the Monument that can be seen on the front page of this report.

Case No: Hartswater CAS 103/07/2020

CHRIS DU TOIT

Date 2013 Location North West, South Africa



We were the victims of a farm attack in Beestekraal, Brits in 2013. We were fired upon eight times, and one shot was fired into the engine of our vehicle to prevent us from escaping. That night, we remained brave, and the attackers couldn't do anything to us. We fought back and managed to switch off the main switch on the electrical panel, which caught the intruders off guard. The plaster broke off the walls next to our heads as the bullets struck.

I was still a child at the time, and the experience had a terrible impact on my life. Afterward, I was robbed twice. No case number was issued for the farm attack, because the police did not arrive at the farm after waiting for more than three hours. We packed all our important belongings and left the farm.

We still have the .38 round that was fired into the engine, but unfortunately, no police case number or official record was created. There were many witnesses, including one of our companions, who was a former policeman himself.

GERHARD PIETERSEN

Date 2016

Location Western Cape, South Africa



My wife, Amor, and sister-in-law, Tineka's, parents, Tewie and Eurika Human, were murdered on their smallholding in Groot Brakrivier in 2016 by their worker and a friend. Tewie was brutally murdered by stabbing him with a handmade knife and slashing his head with a panga. Eurika was stabbed four times in the chest with the same knife after an hour of torture. It later emerged in the court case that he may have had connections with a gang in Lesotho involved in armed robbery. That aspect was never followed up during the court proceedings.

I visited the scene four days after the murders and had to clean it up myself. Two arrests and court cases took place over a period of four years. The mastermind, Lebohang Lekoro, was from Lesotho and fled after the murders. He was arrested in November 2018 and sentenced in August 2019.

His accomplice, Tsansamqua Sishuba, was arrested three weeks after the murders and sentenced in 2017.

During this time, we were all deeply affected psychologically and emotionally by the trauma. We completed "victim impact statements." As part of my own healing process, I documented the events in a memoir and recently translated it into English. I am still uncertain whether I want to publish it. It may help others find words and perspective on the impact of violence on families, post-traumatic stress, and how the investigation and legal process unfolded over this period. We could not return to the house, so we sold it.

Every report of a farm or other murder, along with the vicious comments that dismiss such incidents as insignificant, leads to re-traumatization. We understand what others are going through. We hope that, through sharing our story, people will gain more insight into the situation in our country and recognize that such violence is abnormal. We want society to view victims with more compassion.

We do not want to be political pawns. We simply wish to tell our story - like many others - to raise awareness. When we listen to understand rather than to judge, it can lead to greater insight, potential action, and more space for healing for victims of violence.

Sishuba's Case: 28 August - 12 September 2017, Case No: CC11/2017 Lebohang Lekoro: 5-26 August 2019. Case No: CC17/2019

CHRIS JOUBERT

Date 2020 Location Limpopo, South Africa



During the night of 4 August 2020, my wife, Leonise and I survived a farm attack on our farm in the Dendron area of Limpopo province. My mother, who was 99 years old at the time, stayed with us in the house.

My wife heard my mom talking and went to her room. When she opened the door, she saw three black men sitting on the bed with her. She screamed, and I ran towards her. The three men were pointing guns at her. The next moment, two of them grabbed me and started hitting me over the head with a blunt object while shouting, "We are going to kill you." I was assaulted badly.

They took my wife to our bedroom, where two of them raped her, and one

shot her in the leg above the knee. Luckily my mother was not harmed physically. The suspects fled the scene with a Nissan bakkie (truck) and firearms. Three of them were arrested in Polokwane, and the fourth was shot dead by the police. Two of them were sentenced to life imprisonment, and the other received a 10-year sentence.

Case No: Polokwane CC09/2023

Note: Following this attack, the farming community decided to hold a march against the ongoing farm attacks. More than 500 vehicles gathered to drive to the Morebeng Magistrate's Court. This took place just a week after the marches in Hartswater, as a response to the murders of the Brand family (see page 10).

VERONICA GROBLER

Date 2022 Location Limpopo, South Africa



It was on October 7, 2022; I was 22 years old at that time. My fiancé, Nicci Janse van Rensburg, and I lived on a farm in Roedtan, Polokwane. We drove to town early that Friday morning to do all our shopping and left our 15-year-old friend, who was staying with us, at home.

My fiancé and I returned to the farm at about 5:30 p.m., where there was a strange car in our yard. Nicci ran inside, and I was still in the bakkie until he came back out of the house with three suspects behind him, armed with guns. They ordered us to lie down next to the bakkie, and so we did.

Another suspect came out of the house, grabbed a log, and hit Nicci three times behind the head. They took Nicci into the house. I stood on the porch, where I could see inside the house. They ordered him to look for money. I heard a gunshot go off but couldn't see anything until they took Nicci into the dining room and shot him in his right knee, followed by two shots through his head. They took me to the 15-year-old boy, and they tied us back to back. They took my pants off and ripped off my underwear to see if I was hiding any money. They stole the camera system, money from my handbag, a toolbox, and our cellphones.

My friend and I were still tied together in the house until the next morning when one of the workers heard me calling for help. She untied us, and I immediately went to the police station.

PROTEST IN ROEDTAN FOLLOWING THE ATTACK ON A LOCAL FARMER

After the murder of Nicci Janse van Rensburg, the farming community of Roedtan marched to the town's circuit court to express their frustration over farm murders. A long line of trucks, tractors & other farming machinery can be seen entering the court.



The sign on the farmers' tractor reads: "Stop farm murders. No farmer. No food. No work. No future."

Photos courtesy of Reint Dykema.







The farming community is visible with their arms in the air, forming a cross to show their protest against farm attacks and murders.

ELJO BAKKER

Date 2011 Location Western Cape, South Africa



My name is Eljo Bakker, and I have never talked about this incident publicly for statistical purposes. It was in May 2011 when my boyfriend and I went to spend the night at a friend's farm between Wolseley and Ceres in the Western Cape. His parents were away for the weekend, and we, the three 21-year-olds, were looking after the farm. Just after midnight, I went to bed; at 2:00 a.m., our friend went outside to turn off the irrigation and then also went to sleep.

At 4:00 a.m., I was woken up by the most unpleasant noises I will never forget. It sounded like someone was cutting off our friend's throat. When I opened my eyes, I immediately knew something was wrong. My boyfriend came in and said I had to help keep the doors closed. There was silence, and my boyfriend called our friend's name. There were already two black men outside our door who immediately started pushing and shoving to try to get into the room. We couldn't hold the door, and within seconds, they were inside with guns and knives. I was beaten unconscious with the back of a knife and remained unconscious for more than 30 minutes.

When I came to, my hands and feet were tied with cable ties so tightly that my feet still hurt from the cuts a week after the incident. They searched for weapons and referred to us as "white motherf*ckers." They pressed a knife to my throat and tried to rape me. Fortunately, they couldn't get my legs open because they had tied them crosswise.

They knew our friend and his father were hunting enthusiasts and had many weapons, so they tried breaking into the walk-in safe but failed because of the security system. We were beaten, kicked, and tortured. One of them wanted to carve his name into my arm and took my ID book, threatening that when it was all over, he would come for me. They held a gun to my head, counted to three, and made my boyfriend beg for my life. They threatened they would rape my friends. Throughout the two hours of hell, I had to hear how they hated white people - one said, "You whites killed my child, motherf*ckers"!

I am a nurse and swore an oath never to try to hurt anyone. I took every blow with my eyes closed and prayed to the Lord. They stole a bakkie (truck) to escape and a 500 kg safe, but they couldn't find the weapons they were looking for. My front teeth were chipped, and we were hurt, but the police say we were lucky to survive. We tried to negotiate and didn't fight because, when you fight and struggle, they enjoy it.

They were connected to a farm murder in Bonnievale, where a man was not as lucky as we were that night. I still have severe PTSD, but it is getting better with time and the more I talk about what happened.

I live on a farm in the Cedar Mountains outside Clanwilliam. We have been threatened by coloured residents (Khoisan) from Wuppertal, who want the EFF to come and kill us. They want to take our land and claim it belongs to them. Our neighbour is now going to court later this month, charged with photographing them without permission and for closing a farm gate that runs over a public road. We had to do this because they are stealing our tea, and the police are aware but do nothing!

Farming today presents more challenges than pleasures. We stay on our knees every day. It is not easy, but we do it for our children. We keep clinging to hope. I am a strong mother of three, and I became stronger that night. I was not broken because that is what they wanted.



HONOURABLE MENTIONS

These attacks that didn't necessarily happen on farms, but are still testimony to the high violence, crime and murder rate in South Africa.

GARY BISHOP

Date 2016

Location Eastern Cape, South Africa



A gentle old man named John Bradish, who was 80 years old and living in Lady Grey, Eastern Cape, in 2016, was brutally murdered in his home with blunt force trauma using a hammer. The only things stolen were a mobile phone and his SASSA card. They did catch the guy, and when asked why he did it, he said, "I don't know, I was drunk." Brazenly, he even washed his clothes after the murder - basically right over the body, as the washing machine was nearby. Not an ounce of shame.

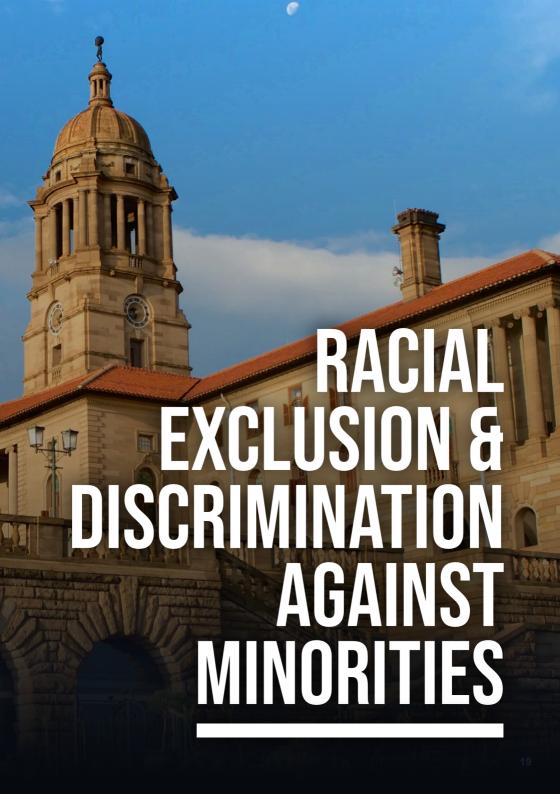
ANTHONY PEARCE

Date 2021

Location Gauteng, South Africa



My wife and I were held hostage at gunpoint in our home in Johannesburg in 2021. Five armed men, all black, tied my wife up and tried to shoot me in the head. To date, nothing has been done by the police. We provided camera footage of the attack, but the police don't seem to care. They didn't even get out of their car to take our statements; they made us stand in the street. They seemed surprised that we weren't killed and treated us with disdain. During the attack, I was beaten over the head repeatedly, and the attackers tried to shoot me several times. As far as I understand, the original detective in charge of our case has left, and the case is yet to be handed over to a new investigator. According to the SAPS (South African Police Service) system, the fingerprints captured at our home were positively identified. There's no mention of the camera footage of the perpetrators, car, or number plates on the vehicle that were captured. Case No: Honeydew 348/07/2021



CONTEXT

The implementation of racial laws primarily began in 1996 and gradually worsened, with more than 140 racial laws currently in place, including BEE laws. Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) was introduced in South Africa in 2003 as part of efforts to advance economic transformation and facilitate meaningful participation of Black South Africans in the economy. However, over the past two decades, it has become clear that BEE only benefits an elite few and, while the majority of black south africans still struggle with poverty, and other minorities like the Afrikaners are excluded from more and more opportunities in the name of economic transformation.

LEONIE VENTER

I am a South African-born, white, Afrikaans female who holds a PhD (obtained in South Africa) along with postdoctoral experience that equips me to be an exceptional university lecturer. Unfortunately, I am unable to apply for many academic positions in South Africa due to the restrictions of nGAP (New Generation of Academics Programme), an initiative by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) aimed at developing a new generation of black South African academics. Frequently, when positions align with my qualifications and experience, it is made clear that they are designated as nGAP appointments.

Currently, I 'm working overseas to maintain an income and continue growing professionally within my scientific field. I thrive in diverse environments, value learning from people from all walks of life, and believe that positions should be filled based on merit. Ultimately, I seek a fair opportunity to teach and contribute meaningfully to the future of my home country.

ANYNOMOUS

The implementation of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) legislation in South Africa has profoundly impacted white male professionals, particularly in sectors such as oil and gas, where technical expertise and long-term experience have historically been valued. As a wife observing this phenomenon, I present the account of my 59-year-old white male engineer, employed at a leading South African oil and gas company, whose career trajectory and personal dignity have been significantly undermined by the application of B-BBEE policies.

For 40 years, he dedicated himself to his profession, designing processes that delivered substantial cost savings and resolving complex technical challenges within the oil and gas industry. His role extended beyond individual contributions; he mentored numerous young black engineers, imparting critical skills. These efforts required extensive time and commitment, often involving late hours to ensure the professional development of his mentees.

However, the B-BBEE framework, intended to address historical inequities by promoting demographic transformation, has resulted in these younger, less experienced engineers being promoted to senior positions, including department head and line manager roles, directly overseeing his work.

This pattern has persisted over several years, with successive mentees—whom he trained - ascending to positions of authority over him. These promotions, driven by B-BBEE mandates, have rendered his decades of expertise and contributions seemingly irrelevant. His work, perfected through years of practical application, is now subject to review and correction by individuals he mentored, creating a profound sense of professional diminishment.

This experience is not unique but reflects a broader trend affecting white male engineers across South Africa's oil and gas sector and other industries. B-BBEE policies, while aimed at redressing past injustices, have systematically marginalised experienced white male professionals, prioritising demographic representation over seniority and technical proficiency.

The professional stagnation imposed by these policies is compounded by an environment where dissent is perilous. White male professionals are acutely aware that voicing concerns about B-BBEE's implementation risks accusations of resisting transformation - a label that could lead to job loss or further marginalisation. Consequently, many remain silent, suppressing their frustration to preserve their livelihoods. This enforced silence exacerbates the psychological toll, as individuals who once derived pride from their expertise and contributions are relegated to subordinate roles, their professional identities eroded.

The cumulative impact on white male professionals is severe. Across South Africa, men in their 40s and 50s, who have dedicated decades to their careers, find themselves sidelined, their experience devalued in favour of policy-driven promotions.

This has led to widespread feelings of worthlessness and despair, as these individuals are reduced to secondary status within their workplaces. The emotional and psychological burden is significant, with many experiencing a loss of purpose and identity, as their contributions to their industries and the development of younger colleagues are rendered inconsequential.

This account reflects a systemic issue faced by white male professionals in South Africa. The application of B-BBEE, while addressing historical disparities, has inadvertently created a new form of exclusion, undermining the careers and dignity of those who have long served their industries. The resulting professional and personal toll underscores a complex challenge within South Africa's transformative policies, where the balance between equity and merit remains unresolved.

SEB LALLOO

I am of mixed-race and Indian descent. I built a very successful career in human resources from 1991 to 2012, which included eight years working for the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC. I had to return at the end of 2012 due to a divorce, and from there, I struggled to find work. I was unemployed for nine months, then worked for a year and two months, and was unemployed again for twenty months. After that, I had to accept a position at officer level despite having been a manager before.

When I obtained a management position, it was in a small factory with a very unpleasant workplace. I was just one person and was overwhelmed with the workload. As a result, I developed depression and anxiety, and after two years, I had to go on medical retirement due to my condition.

I blame affirmative action for my situation because I should have been able to work in any top management position after my international experience. However, in my area of work, there are a large number of black students choosing this field, and companies would rather hire a cheaper, less experienced candidate instead of a competent candidate like me. Affirmative action destroyed my life and career.

ANONYMOUS

I experienced discrimination recently. During a job interview, I was told that I am too "right" and "anti-government" to be in a corporate position, partly because of my farm murder awareness posts on Facebook.

In a previous job, I resigned after filling the role of Assistant Manager for six months, having been promised the position. After the current manager resigned, they appointed a white female manager and told me that there cannot be two white females in management. I had to train a black male as Assistant Manager - the position I worked for and earned.

The truth is, the private sector - even white-owned companies - don't always employ people on merit. Employment equity and nepotism are often the criteria.

CONTEXT

It is often openly stated by organisations that if you are a certain race you do not qualify for selection, positions, scholarships or jobs. The quota system is also used to facilitate selections on the basis of race instead of merit.

There are numerous examples of large organisations using this policy to discriminate against minorities, we only highlighted two.

SEFAKO MAKGATHO HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY (SMU)

Racial quotas are a common practice in South African universities aimed at increasing the representation of all racial groups, primarily Black South Africans, in student admissions and academic staff. While intended to promote equality, they have been controversial, with ongoing debates over fairness, merit, and the impact on academic standards. This can lead to racial exclusion and discrimination against minorities such as mixed-race, Indian, and white students, even though the students who are currently in their first year were born thirteen years after apartheid ended. The Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) is only one example of this quota based race. The paragraph below from their official website describe their quota system:

"SMU endeavours to attract talented students from all demographic groupings in South Africa whilst prioritizing transformation. In this regard a quota system based on a principle that promotes equitable chances and fairness to students from all population groups (Indigenous Africans (Black) - 80.2%; Coloureds - 8.8%; Whites - 8.5%; Indians/Asians - 2.5%) is applied in all selection processes excluding the special foundation medicine program that is reserved for indigenous South Africans (Blacks) from Quintile 1 and 2 schools. The above quota system is based on the census demography of the SA population and will apply from one census to the other. The selection process is done in phases. The decisions of the School Admissions and Selection Committee are final."

As can be seen from the paragraph above, special measures are in place for specific programs like the medicine program with other universities also following strict quotas in their medical and veterinary science programs.

BIDVEST

In July 2025 there was an online outrage sparked by an advert of The Bidvest school bursary programme, administered through the Bidvest Education Trust, that supports school-going children of Bidvest Group employees earning less than R15,300 per month before deductions. It covers school fees, stationery, uniforms, and extra classes. However, the programme explicitly excludes white children, restricting eligibility to Black African, Coloured, and Indian children, aligning with Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) goals.

This is their official policy even though the Bidvest Group Limited Code of Ethics claim the following: "Discrimination based on any of the following race, religion, age, pregnancy, marital status, sex, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or social origin, disability, colour, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth - is illegal and will not be tolerated. Any employee that experiences any kind of discrimination should report this immediately."





CONTEXT

On January 23, 2025, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the Expropriation Bill into law, a legislative move that allows the South African government to expropriate land and property without necessarily providing compensation. The risks include the undermining of property rights, discouraging investment, and economic uncertainty.

Poorly managed land reform could lead to increased instability, loss of agricultural productivity, and negative impacts on long-term growth. Other threats to property rights include the actions of so-called land grabbers, who illegally claim and occupy land belonging to other citizens.

DANIE HEYNS

Date 2021 Location Mpumalanga, South Africa

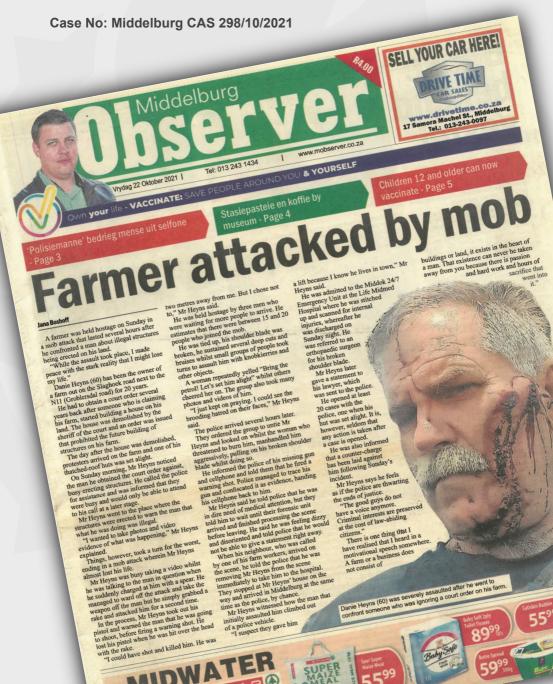


I am a farmer from Middelburg, Mpumalanga. I was severely assaulted after a group of land claimants attacked me and kept me hostage for several hours. This happened after I confronted a man who was building illegal structures on my property. Several years ago, I obtained a court order after a person started building on my property, claiming my farm is his land. I have been the owner of the farm for 20 years.

One Sunday morning, I noticed the man I obtained the court order against was again building structures on my farm. I phoned the police, but they said they were busy and could not help me at that moment. I went to the place where he was building to take a video and photo for evidence. The man then attacked me with a spear and a rake, but I was able to defend myself. I shot a warning shot with my pistol. I could have shot and killed him, but I decided not to.

Approximately 15 to 20 people joined the mob, and I was tied up and assaulted with blunt objects. I also sustained deep cuts, bruises, and a broken shoulder blade. One of the women repeatedly called out, "Bring the petrol. Let's set him on fire." When the police arrived several hours later, they ordered the group to untie me. My pistol was taken as evidence, and I was taken to the hospital for treatment.

The police did not seize any of the weapons or arrest any of the attackers. In fact, as we entered town on our way to the hospital, we saw the police dropping off the main suspect who attacked me earlier - presumably giving him a lift because he lives in town.



ADRIAAN WESSELS

Date N/A Location North West, South Africa



I am a qualified attorney and have been practicing for about 15 years, although I am not currently practicing. In August 2020, a large-scale and coordinated attempt at unlawful land occupation took place in the Kroondal area, just outside Rustenburg. Over several days, hundreds of people targeted several privately owned farms, attempting to demarcate plots using poles and other materials. The residents, with the help of community members, organizations, and the South African Police Service (SAPS), found themselves in a standoff and were unable to successfully dismantle the group, many of whom were armed with pangas, shovels, pitchforks, axes, and other objects.

After an urgent eviction order was successfully obtained, the situation intensified when the Sheriff of the Court arrived to inform the occupiers of the court's decision. In a clear display of frustration and defiance, members of the group began throwing rocks at passersby. The standoff continued, and by the following day, tensions had escalated to a point where the SAPS was compelled to intervene, using rubber bullets to disperse the crowd and bring the occupation attempt to an end. No arrests were made in the process.

Franerro

Franerro purchased Plot 35 in Waterval, Rustenburg, intending to develop a commercial office park. At the time, there were existing tenants, mostly employed at nearby mines. Certain members of the City Council encouraged the tenants to stop paying rent, assuring them that the municipality would secure the land on their behalf. Subsequently, unlawful occupiers invaded the property, and the City Council supported them by installing water tanks and illegal power connections. When Franerro tried to enforce their rights to take occupation, the occupiers' legal defense was funded by the Department of Rural Development.

Over time, this group became known as the "Waterval 35 Forum" and began extorting local businesses, making construction impossible unless their members were employed. After a decade-long legal battle, a court order in 2024 stipulated that Franerro give the City Council until mid-2025 to either purchase the land or find alternative housing for the occupiers.

Now that the deadline has passed, the City Council has simply produced a report stating it has neither the land nor the money to comply. Franerro is left unable to use its property and is legally prohibited from evicting the residents

whose composition has changed entirely since 2014. This has resulted in a de facto expropriation, forcing Franerro to approach the court for compensation. However, given that the state has no money, the occupiers allegedly have nowhere to go, and taking into account the recently approved Expropriation Act, this may effectively become a case of expropriation without compensation in the name of "public interest."



MARIUS VAN DER WALT



Date 2022 Location Eastern Cape, South Africa

Our Farm Hijacked - We bought Protea Ridge Farm in November 2021. It's a small farm. It grows Protea flowers, South Africa's national flower. Mr. X (pseudonym given to protect identity) illegally occupied our farmhouse. This forced us into a rundown outbuilding. It was unsafe for our family, including our young child. On 5 May 2022, we proved his harm in court. We got an interdict. It banned him from damaging property, cutting trees, or inviting guests. He ignored it. On 4 August 2022, we won an eviction order. It was effective 12 September 2022.

Court's Unfair Block - An urgent stay order hit us on 26 September 2022. Sonamzi Attorneys filed it. They were funded by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. Mr X used legal aid before this. The state's funding of costly lawyers shows bias against us. The stay cited a law repealed 24 years ago in 1998 (Government Gazette No. 19291). This made the stay invalid (Unitrans Passenger v Chairman, 2017). The same Port Alfred Magistrate's Court issued the eviction and stay. The court overstepped its authority. It used a repealed law. The Sheriff kept our farmhouse keys. **No Trial, Forced Deal**

On 17 November 2022, the court refused to hear the stay case. It offered only an agreement option. We were denied a trial. The agreement awaits a review from a disbanded Land Claims Court. We got our farmhouse. We had to reinstate Mr. X back on the farm, in housing he rejected during eviction. That housing was suddenly fine for him. The stay creates a deadlock. This review won't happen. Our finances are drained from legal battles. We can't afford High Court action. We can't appeal, only seek review.

Rights Trashed - Mr. X acts like he owns our farm. He builds illegally. He cuts trees. This costs us large amounts of money. His actions make our farm unsafe. We filed contempt charges in May 2024. The court rejected them. We hired an advocate to intervene. The Director of Public Prosecutions recommended five contempt counts (16 October 2024, Seafield CAS 2/5/2024, 4/6/2024). Mr. X's disregard for the agreement fuels this case. It still doesn't trigger a review. He answers in the same court that forced the illegal stay and agreement. The court won't admit fault. It won't fix the situation. These breaches show:

- 1. Property Rights (Section 25): Mr. X denies us farm control.
- 2. Court Access (Section 34): The stalled stay blocks justice.
- 3. Safety (Section 12): His actions threaten our family.

Clear Discrimination - The court delays our case to 27 June 2025. It gives no real reason. We wrote to the Public Prosecutor to break this deadlock. A just eviction is reversed. The court trashes our constitutional rights to protect Mkhokeli. This shows clear bias. It discriminates against Afrikaners. We won't accept refugee offers. The court's unfairness hurts us daily.

TYGERBERG RACEWAY

Date 2020 Location Western Cape, South Africa

Tygerberg Raceway, located in Kraaifontein, Cape Town, was a prominent gravel raceway known for oval dirt track and stock car racing. Leased from the City of Cape Town since 1994 by Chris Liebenberg, it operated as a community hub for motorsport enthusiasts, brought the whole community together and created jobs and opportunities for hundreds of people.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the raceway faced a violent land invasion. Between July and August 2020, hundreds to thousands of people illegally occupied the site, setting it alight and demolishing structures. Protests in Kraaifontein, sparked by the City of Cape Town's eviction of illegally built structures in nearby Bloekombos, escalated the situation. Police used water cannons, rubber bullets, and teargas to disperse protesters, but it was too late as the raceway was heavily damaged, with reports of gunfire and vandalism.By April 2021, approximately 6,000 illegal structures had been erected on the site, housing around 20,000 people.

The destruction devastated the motorsport community, erasing a legacy for the roughly 100 club members and their families. Chris Liebenberg reported losses of about R60 million. The invasion disrupted plans for the Marula North housing project, valued at R110 million, intended to address housing needs in Bloekombos.

What is noticeable in this specific case of the threats to property rights in South Africa is the lack of action by the police and the misuse of the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act (PIE Act). The PIE Act complicated efforts to evict thousands of unlawful occupants who settled on the site. The requirement for alternative accommodation and court oversight delayed action, contributing to the raceway's destruction. It can thus be said that the PIE Act's protections were exploited and weaponized by landgrabbers. The raceway remains non-operational, with the land occupied by informal settlements.



Joe Emilio, Stolen Ground: The Tygerberg Raceway Story, directed by Joe Emilio (2025; South Africa: YouTube) Hoosier Tyres SA. (2017, 28 November). Photo of Activity in Cape Town, Western Cape [Photo]. Facebook.

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