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Killing of New Brighton couple baffles kids, cops

Zamandulo Malonde
malondez@theherald.co.za

Mystery surrounds the shooting of a couple in New Brighton, who were found naked and dead in their bed on Sunday morning after they failed to show up for a traditional ceremony.

The bodies of Nomfundo Galadile and Nkosamahlubi Linda, both 45, were found in their Nginza Street home, with several gunshot wounds.

The perpetrator, after stealing money and cellphones, left brazenly through the front door and locked the couple inside.

The couple were last seen leaving Linda's family home in Singaphi Street, where the weekend-long ceremony was held.

They left at about 10pm on Saturday, leaving their car behind, and walked to Galadile's house in Nginza Street.

Linda's older brother, Nzuzo Mquqo, said he had gone to look for Linda after he surprisingly did not return home for the important ceremony.

"I went to [Galadile's house] with my son to look for him because it was unlike him to sleep in while we had a ceremony on the go, but the door was locked and curtains closed, so we left."

"I had to leave for Peddie but I turned around near [Makhanda] when I received the news," he said.

"This has devastated our family and we have no answers."

"We don't know what could have happened or who could've killed them. His son is seemingly fine right now, but he's been quiet and that's what worries me," he said.

He said the family had forced their way into the house

and that was when they made the gruesome discovery.

When Galadile's daughter, Zintle, 27, last heard from her mother on Saturday afternoon, she sounded happy on the phone.

"She was her normal self, happy and chatty."

"She called me while I was out with colleagues, so I had to cut the call short even though she still wanted to chat," Zintle said.

"My mother was like a friend to me and, though she had only stayed in New Brighton for a few years, she walked around greeting and talking to everyone, and showing me off whenever I visited."

An emotional Zintle said she had become even closer to her mother after giving birth to her own daughter in 2015.

"She loved my daughter and my daughter loved her."

"I have no idea how to explain to my child that her [grandmother] isn't coming back."

"She keeps saying she will come back," she said.

Zintle said she had not yet had the courage to visit her mother's house in New Brighton.

Galadile's two children lived with her mother in Motherwell.

Her son, Vuyisa, 21, said his mother had invited him to the ceremony in New Brighton, but he could not attend as he had car problems.

"We had a very close relationship," he said.

Galadile's neighbours said they were shocked by the news as they had not heard any gunshots.

Some said they had last seen Galadile on Friday and were familiar with Linda, who often visited her.

Police spokesperson Colonel Priscilla Naidu said police were investigating two cases of murder.

"The motive for the killings and circumstances surrounding their deaths are unknown at this stage," Naidu said.

Police are also investigating the murder of Andile Nguqu, 36, who was shot dead in New Brighton in a separate incident at the weekend.

Naidu said police responded to a complaint of a shooting in Dubula Street on Saturday and found Nguqu's body lying on the side of the road, in front of a house.

Nguqu sustained one gunshot wound to the back of his head.

Children in mourning



SO MANY QUESTIONS: Nomfundo Galadile's son, Vuyisa, 21, and her daughter, Zintle, 27, are struggling to come to terms with her murder. Picture: FREDLIN ADRIAN

Walmer man due in court for rape and murder of S'strand woman, 85

Devon Koen

A suspected serial house robber facing numerous charges including murder and rape is due to appear in the high court in Gqeberha on Thursday to plead to the charges.

The Walmer man, 30, is not being named as he has not yet pleaded to a charge of rape.

He appeared briefly in court yesterday and his case was postponed to Thursday to allow defence advocate Johan van der Spuy time to consult before the trial starts.

The man faces nine counts of housebreaking with intent to rob, eight counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, five counts of kidnapping, one charge of theft, as well as charges relating to the rape and murder of Hazel Higgins, 85, who was found dead in her Kruger Gardens cottage in Summerstrand.

The cottage had been ransacked and police valued the stolen items at about R35,000.

Then, on September 21 2014, the man allegedly struck again, this time at a complex in Verdun Road, Lorraine.

He allegedly tied up the homeowner and ransacked the property, making off with goods worth more than R9,000.

On February 13 2016, a woman was attacked and tied up after the man and unidentified accomplices allegedly broke into a guest house in Tiran Road, Summerstrand.

Numerous items were taken including an iPad, sunglasses, an iPhone and a laptop.

On April 6 2016, a resident of Ben Viljoen Street, Summerstrand, was assaulted and tied up. Various items were stolen from the property.

On May 29 2016, the man allegedly struck again, this time in Bulbring Street, Summerstrand, to steal an Azpen Tablet.

Between August 21 and 22 2016, the man allegedly broke into a Toyota Hilux standing outside a house in Tiran Street, Summerstrand, and stole items valued at more than R8,000.

Then, during the early hours of October 7 2017, the man allegedly broke into a student house in Bulbring Street, tied up the three occupants and stole several electronic items.

The state has asked that should the man be found guilty of the rape and murder, he be sentenced to life for each count and 15 years' for each of the additional charges against him.

The case was postponed to May 6.

State to answer to Omotoso's allegations

Devon Koen

The state has about three weeks to respond on paper to damning claims by Nigerian televangelist Timothy Omotoso that prosecutors involved in the matter had deliberately withheld information vital to the case.

Omotoso's revelations were based on a confidential e-mail trail between the lead prosecutor in his rape trial, advocate Nceba Ntelwa, and advocate Ismael Cerfontein, who had been assisting him before she

abruptly withdrew due to ethical reasons.

While the pastor wants judge Irma Schoeman to declare a mistrial, the state must now answer to allegations that Ntelwa allegedly tried to persuade witnesses to commit perjury.

Omotoso, who has been in custody since April 2017, faces multiple charges of rape and human trafficking alongside church members Lusanda Sulani and Zukiswa Sitho.

The two are out on bail. In the high court in Gqeber-

ha yesterday, the state was given until May 28 to respond.

The e-mails form part of the application by Omotoso in which he accuses Ntelwa of withholding crucial evidence and causing witnesses to lie under oath.

It is alleged that Ntelwa also instructed Cerfontein to ignore additional charges against Omotoso "because it will impact so negatively to the case".

Cerfontein withdrew from the case in August, but would not disclose her reasons for doing so.

Should the case be declared a mistrial, it will have to start afresh — or the defence could apply for a stay of prosecution which, if granted, means Omotoso could walk away a free man.

Yesterday, state prosecutor Velle Makasana told Schoeman that an arrangement had been reached with the defence to postpone the matter to May 28.

Advocate Gerard Wolmarans SC will head the team dealing with the matter on behalf of the state.

Intimidation of journalists totally unacceptable, says Ramaphosa

Nonkululeko Njilo

President Cyril Ramaphosa has spoken out against the intimidation of journalists, sometimes accompanied by threats of sexual violence, which he said was totally unacceptable and harmed media freedom.

This follows a global report detailing an increase in the number of women journalists intimidated on social media last year.

SA ranked 32nd out of 180 countries in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, a barometer of the state of media freedom across the globe.

The report found that me-

dia freedom had deteriorated, there was a decline in public access to information and there were various challenges for news coverage in many countries.

The index found that media freedom in SA was "guaranteed but fragile".

"The report notes that, while the SA constitution protects freedom and we have an established culture of investigative journalism, a number of impediments still hinder journalists in the performance of their duties," Ramaphosa said in his weekly newsletter yesterday.

"It also notes an increase

during 2020 of the intimidation of journalists, especially female journalists on social media.

"Such intimidation is totally unacceptable, but is particularly harmful when it is directed at female journalists and is occasionally accompanied by threats of sexual violence," Ramaphosa said.

Ramaphosa praised SA's robust media which had, among other things, uncovered state capture.

"We take great comfort in the knowledge that we have a free, robust media that is able to report without fear or favour about those in power, about the most pressing social issues

of our time, and to provide accurate, impartial information to the public.

"The SA media has played a pivotal role in uncovering much of what we know today about the true extent of capture of the state by self-serving, corrupt individuals and entities.

"If the media is to remain true to its responsibility to support democracy, our journalists must continue to report without fear or favour on the issues of the day."

The president also warned journalists and media houses against being used to further political agendas. — TimesLIVE

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