

Mother's Day rape ordeal

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AN ORKNEY, North West woman had a hellish Mother's Day when a group of about 15 illegal miners gang-raped her.

The 29-year-old troubled wife had gone to a shebeen to bust her cheating husband when she met her harrowing ordeal in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The men dragged the mother of two for a few metres from the shebeen into a bushy area near a hospital in Orkney and beat her up before taking turns raping her for more than an hour.

During the gruesome attack, the men threatened to kill her if she screamed or reported the crime to the police.

A pedestrian who had been walking to work found the woman naked and crying at the same spot where her unknown assailants had left her.

"She is still in hospital and traumatised. She is sore from the pain from her uterus. It will take time for her to recover," the woman's younger sister, whose name cannot be revealed to protect the victim's identity, said.

The woman left her house in Muzomuhle township in Vaal Reeds minutes after her husband had gone to work a night shift.

She suspected he had gone to his suspected lover from the same township, and she planned to go out and

look for him.

The husband is known to have a roving eye that has often caused problems in their marriage.

"She wanted to bust him, red-handed so she took a knife to protect herself from the zamas (illegal miners) who are known for terrorising the community in the small town of Orkney.

"When she got to the shebeen, her husband was not there and the owner was getting ready to close at 2am. He threw her out along with other male patrons and locked the gates. They then grabbed her and dragged her to the bushes, where they raped her," the woman's relative

Gang of illegal miners take turns on troubled wife

been inside.

"At the moment the information is still unclear because the victim said she could not identify the men who gang-raped her and we cannot confirm if they are indeed zamas. The matter is still under investigation," Kruger said.

Political parties expressed disgust at the incident, calling for authorities to take action against mining companies that have left unsecured shafts which attract illegal miners.

"The law enforcement agencies must be warned that the patience of the community is fading away and if cases like this are not treated as a priority, the community might

resort to taking the law into their own hands.

The ANC Women's League calls on the Department of Mineral Resources, the provincial commissioner of police in North West and representatives of all Chapter 9 institutions mandated to protect human rights and ensure a society free from any form of gender oppression to reclaim the area from the illegal miners who are terrorising women in that area," ANCWL secretary-general Meebego Matthee said.

Happy Kati EFF deputy chairperson for the Dr Kenneth Kaunda region said they would hold a com-

munity meeting on Thursday to speak about crime in the area.

"We don't condone abuses of women and children. We are saying that the culprits must be brought to book and we are willing to work with police in this matter. We will put pressure on them. These zamas are armed and have been terrorising this community for many years," Kati said.

Once a thriving town propelled by mining activities, Orkney and nearby Klentokop have become ghost towns following the demise of the mining industry.

Many companies shut down, leaving behind shafts with gold remnants that illegal miners prey on. Mining of illicit gold has often resulted in deadly turf wars in the area.

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15/05/18

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Six people die in horror crash

Traffic police search for clues to identify two adults and three kids

ELFAS TORERAI

TRAFFIC authorities expressed shock and grief after a family of six were killed in a horrific road accident on the N4 near Buffelspoort on Sunday morning. Paramedics who attended to the scene said they found the bodies of two adults, including a pregnant woman and three children between four and nine.

It's understood the driver lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a pillar before the car caught fire.

ER24 spokesperson Annine Siddall said paramedics arrived at the scene and could do nothing to save the victims.

On impact, all other occupants are said to have been thrown out of the vehicle with only one child remaining in the wreckage that then caught fire.

"The woman, children and the man were declared dead on the scene by various emergency services. The exact circumstances surrounding the incident

are not yet known but local authorities are investigating," Siddall said.

The police confirmed the accident and said that investigations were under way to identify the deceased and their next of kin. The police said they were using the car's registration to track down where the occupants lived so that they could try to contact family members.

A case of culpable homicide was opened and is under investigation. "It is reported that a Toyota Corolla was driving east on the N4 under the IFM bridge, which is about 2km before a Petroport. This vehicle collided with one of the pillars of the bridge and after the accident the vehicle caught fire," Lt-Col Adele Myburgh said.

"The police have a motor vehicle registration number that we can trace and go back to the victims' house to see who is staying there and try to determine who the close family is by interviewing neighbours," Myburgh said.

She said early indications showed that the victims were from Bapong area near Brits and their identity could soon be established.

Sanco provincial chairperson Paul Sebegoe said they were saddened by the crash and offered their condolences to the deceased's families.

"We wish to convey our condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones in such a shocking way," he said.

Sebegoe challenged traffic police to be visible on the road at all times to help reduce incidents like this.

He said that fatigue was a killer. "Those who are travelling long distances must stop to rest after two hours of driving or alternatively use co-drivers to reduce the carnage on our public roads," Sebegoe said.

Four other people died after a car was hit by a train in the Magaliesburg area at the weekend.

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FIERY END: The mangled wreckage of a car that caught fire after hitting a pillar under the IFM bridge, killing six people.

NEWS SHORTS

Off-duty cop thwarts armed robbery

AN OFF-DUTY police officer stopped an armed robbery in Dipetlelwane village. Three people were in the process of robbing a Pakistani businessman when the officer fired a warning shot. Lt-Col Adéle Myburgh said the robbers left behind their getaway car and one left a cellphone. "A while later, one of the suspects was arrested," she said. Investigations led to the arrest of the other man. The third suspect is still on the run. - Elfias Torera

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POS

Four men arrested for stolen goods

FOUR men were arrested after police in Hartbeespoortdam area followed up on a business robbery case. The four were found in possession of suspected stolen goods. The men are alleged to have burgled a shop in Meerhof and stole goods like cigarettes. Lt-Col Adéle Myburgh said: "The police followed-up leads and an Isuzu bakkie was found on the R511 road, transporting suspected stolen cigarettes on Wednesday." - Elfias Torera

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