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# Hundreds march against human trafficking

ELLEKIA DIRE

HUNDREDS of men in uniform including the police, correctional services officers and firefighters embarked on a march against human trafficking and women and child abuse.

They marched from the Rustenburg taxi rank to the municipal offices and were joined by municipal officials from Kgetleng Rivier and Rustenburg.

Long loud warning sounds of sirens from fire department and police vehicles

could be heard as the marchers made their way through the streets of the city.

The marchers carried placards reading "Please Say No Human Trafficking", "No to Threatened Families" and "No to Women and Children Abuse".

They called for men to take a stand against the abuse of women and children in the area.

The marchers said they could not remain silent while the scourge continued unabated as it was of great concern.

"Today we want to say enough is

enough. We want to say stop the violence against women and children and to raise awareness of the challenges we are facing as the community," municipal public safety director Phopho Kotsedi said.

Mayor Mpho Khunou said the killing of women and children was a cause for concern and was disturbing.

"Brothels in Rustenburg should be identified and closed as that is where the abuse starts," Khonou said.

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# Life imprisonment for rapist

ELFAS TORERAI

THE police have welcomed the life sentence handed down to a man found guilty of multiple counts of rape.

Retshidisitswe Fokotsane, 36, was sentenced by the Klerksdorp Regional Court.

Police spokesperson Lt-Col Pelonomi Makau said Fokotsane lured his victim to his house where he threatened her before raping her repeatedly.

"In July 2016, the 38-year-old victim went to a dump site in Klerksdorp

where she met the accused. The latter was known to the victim. The accused asked the victim to accompany him to his house. At the house, Fokotsane took out an axe and threatened to cut the victim into pieces if she refused to undress," she said.

Police were later alerted about the incident and the accused was traced and arrested.

Acting provincial police commissioner Maj-Gen Ryno Naidoo applauded the investigating team for a sterling job.

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# Girl shot: man in dock

THE CASE against a farmer, 33, accused of shooting a girl, 11, was delayed at the Swartruggens Magistrate's Court yesterday.

This was to allow a prosecutor from Rustenburg to handle the unopposed bail application.

The farmer allegedly shot the girl in the arm last Wednesday. The girl and her friends went to the farm to fetch firewood when the farmer allegedly shouted and ordered them to stop.

Police said the girls ran off. The victim realised her arm was bleeding. She told her mother and was rushed to hospital.

Her parents alerted police. The farmer handed himself in. - ANA

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# Farmer 'shot little girl'

## MAN GETS R3000 BAIL FOR ALLEGEDLY WOUNDING GIRL LOOKING FOR FIREWOOD

ELFAS TORERA

A SWARTRUGGENS farmer was granted R3000 bail after he was arrested for allegedly shooting and wounding an 11-year-old girl who was looking for firewood on his farm.

Benjamin André Steyn, 33, was released after appearing in the Swarttruggens Magistrate's Court yesterday.

He also had charges reduced from attempted murder to negligent discharge of a firearm and assault with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said Steyn had initially been arrested and charged for attempted murder.

"The suspect was arrested after an incident in which the victim was shot in the arm on Wednesday last week. According to information available at this stage, the victim with her friends allegedly went to the farm to fetch firewood when the farm owner shouted and ordered them to stop," he said.

"The girls are said to have run away and it is claimed that in the commotion, one of them was shot on the arm.

"The girls ran away in different directions. At that stage, the victim realised that she was bleeding from the left arm. She reported the incident to her mother at home and was taken to hospital. The victim's parents notified the police."

He said the accused handed himself over to the police on the next day and was arrested and charged.

Mokgwabone said Steyn was now charged with negligent use of a firearm

and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, not attempted murder.

"The case was postponed to September 27 for further investigation," he said.

The incident brought back memories of the Coligny incident when 16-year-old Mathomola Moshoeu died allegedly at the hands of two white farm workers.

The small town of Coligny hogged the headlines for weeks on end as angry residents demanded the two accused be denied bail.

On the day they were granted bail, several buildings in the town were torched.

Incidents of farm attacks continue to polarise racial relations in the North West and elsewhere as thugs also attack and kill farmers.

At the beginning of this month, two farmers were attacked and killed in areas around Vryburg.

In the first incident, Elsa Erasmus, 74, who stayed alone, was abducted and killed on her farm situated between Amalia and Vryburg.

The farmer's whereabouts became subject to police investigations after her friends realised that her house had been ransacked. Erasmus's body was later found a few metres from her bakkie.

In the other incident, Patrick Ilu-meleng was fatally shot when he was attacked together with his family at Friesland farm, also near Vryburg.

"These are the latest in a persistently escalating string of farm attacks. This once again demonstrates the immense urgency to establish rural safety units in farming areas," the DA in NW said.

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