

# Widow flees after death threat

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THE widow of slain Kayamandi land activist Midas Wanana has fled the township following the attempted murder of her brother-in-law and DA activist Themble Joko.

Nosicelo Wanana fled with her youngest child after Joko was shot and wounded by an unknown gunman in Seventh Avenue, Kayamandi, Stellenbosch on Tuesday morning.

Joko was the third activist targeted in recent months, following the murders of Wanana in August and former Stellenbosch deputy mayor Cameron Mcaiko, who was shot and killed at his tavern on November 3.

Nosicelo, who witnessed her husband's murder, said she heard rumours about a hit list, which included her name, as well as Joko's and Mcaiko's.

"I was so shocked, I feared for my life and the lives of my children. So I made a decision to take the rumours as a warning and left Stellenbosch on Monday," she said.

Nosicelo said she left with one of her three children, leaving the other two in the care of a relative, after Joko was confirmed to be in critical condition in hospital.

"This just feels like a nightmare and has opened wounds of my husband's death, because before he was killed, there were threats made on his life."

"It seems like the police are taking all of this lightly because the people behind this are known by community members. Even Joko reported that his life was at risk but nothing was done. More innocent blood will be shed in that area if Land activist leader Zola Ndalasi said nothing is done," Nosicelo said.

He had heard of the rumoured hit list and his name being mentioned, but said he would not leave his community. Ndalasi said there were talks of other leaders, including ward councillors, leaving Kayamandi in fear for their lives. Police spokesperson Sibubulela Malo said a case of attempted murder had been opened after a shooting incident in Kayamandi on Tuesday morning.

"Police members responded to a shooting complaint at the mentioned address and they found a 55-year-old man shot and wounded. He was rushed to a nearby health-care facility for medical treatment," he said.

Malos said the circumstances leading to the incident were being investigated and no one has yet to be arrested.



PROTEAS captain Far du Plessis tweeted a picture of himself and Springbok skipper Siya Kolisi with Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp during his visit to Cape Town this week. Klopp arrived in the city on Tuesday and is understood to be on holiday.

■ METRO

# Slander case against activist dismissed

answer and suggested malice, obstruction of justice and an abuse of the process of law.

In their responding papers, Arendse's lawyer Winston Erasmus had charged that Goss's evidence was of such poor quality that it could not be relied upon. "Accordingly, there is no credible evidence on record upon which a court, acting carefully, may convict the accused. Consequently, the accused should be discharged on all charges against him," he argued.

Erasmus charged that the evidence brought before the court could not be authenticated and therefore had to be dismissed.

Erasmus said he would consult with his client and consider the merits of a malicious prosecution case against the State.

Goss told the Cape Times that he had not been informed about the outcome of the National Police Commissioner. The magistrate ruled that the State produced no evidence that the accused was the author of the posts and that State failed to call its expert witness who was an IT expert to testify," Arendse said yesterday.

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The case stems from alleged utterances by Arendse in May 2017 relating to an alleged rape case which a victim registered at Mitchell's Plain police station.

Arendse said all the charges were dismissed as the State failed to prove its case.

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"We are also shocked because the suspect is my (relative), and we are a very close family that loves and supports each other. Jesse grew up in front of him, they would meet at all the special occasions and family celebrations," Sandy Hess said.

She said the family had not seen any sign of the relative as he didn't attend Jesse's funeral or 19th birthday commemoration.

According to Sandy, she was informed the suspect had allegedly tried to suffocate the Hanover Park teen, which appeared to be the same modus operandi used to rape and murder Hess.

It is alleged that the Hanover Park teenager was saved by her mother when she walked in and caught the suspect in the act. He fled and was last seen jumping into a taxi.

NPO Ilitha Labantu spokesperson Siyubulela Monkali said: "We certainly hope that with this breakthrough the justice system can rightly prosecute the alleged perpetrator so that justice can be served.

"Far too often cases are dismissed due to inconclusive evidence, and we urge over Park incident and will appear on Friday at the Athlone Magistrate's Court perpetrators of sexual violence."

Phillisa Abatazi Bethu director Van Wyk said the suspect became a person of interest in the investigation of a double murder that happened on August 30, understood to be Hess and her grandfather, after circumstantial evidence linked him to the crimes.

Hess, a first-year UWC theology student, who would have turned 19 last month, was found dead on her bed, while Lategan was found tied up and gagged in the toilet of their apartment.

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# Relative questioned over Hess rape, murder

*Family 'shocked and heartbroken'*

"WE ARE shocked and heartbroken. It is a bitter-sweet day for us."

These were the words of Sandy Hess, the aunt of murdered University of the Western Cape (UWC) student Jesse Hess, following the news of a police breakthrough in the rape and murder of their daughter and her 85-year-old grandfather, Chris Lategan.

A 31-year-old relative, positively linked to a recent rape of a Hanover Park teenager, was taken in for questioning. The suspect, who was reportedly out on parole at the time of the crimes, was arrested for rape and robbery just before 1pm yesterday after police received a tip-off on his whereabouts from residents of Struisbaai near Hermanus.

Police spokesperson FC van Wyk said the suspect was on the run since Monday after he allegedly robbed and raped a 16-year-old Hanover Park girl. "He was positively linked in the Hanover Park incident and will appear on Friday at the Athlone Magistrate's Court perpetrators of sexual violence."

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