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As gender violence spirals out of control, protesters spray-paint desperate cry on court walls, saying . . .

WHO'S NEXT?

Kathryn Kimberley
kimberleyk@tisoblackstar.co.za

As calls grow for harsher punishments for the perpetrators of violence against women – including bringing back the death penalty and the chemical castration of rapists – an expression of fear and a cry for help has been spray-painted on the walls of the Port Elizabeth High Court.

This happened as the most recent victim of gender-based violence in the city, a doctor and mother of three young children, prepared to undergo a second surgery after she was shot in the jaw, allegedly by her estranged husband.

The two were going through a divorce. The woman's lawyer, Joanne Anthony-Gooden, has vowed to do everything in her power to ensure that her client's husband, also a doctor with a practice in Motherwell, is not released from custody after he was arrested on a charge of attempted murder.

While the man, 50, is due to make a formal bail application on Monday, Anthony-Gooden said on Wednesday she had first-hand experience of the trauma her client had endured and that she had serious reservations about her safety.

"I am afraid as a mother and a lawyer that if he gets bail, he is going to kill my client. I also believe that he is a danger to himself," she said.

The woman, 36, narrowly

escaped with her life after she was shot in the face when she and her sister went to the estranged couple's Summerstrand home on Saturday to collect some of her belongings.

The woman was shot in front of their three young children, aged 10, seven and two, before the man allegedly tried to commit suicide by injecting himself with an unknown amount of insulin.

Anthony-Gooden said it was a miracle that her client had suffered no further physical damage.

"The bullet was removed from her jaw and she is due to undergo further surgery [on Thursday] as there was extensive damage to her ear canal."

She said the doctors at St George's Hospital were happy with the woman's progress.

Once the swelling had subsided, it would be determined whether she required further surgery.

"She is a devout Christian who is humbled to have survived. She believes God saved her for her children."

"She is still shaken up and every noise gives her a fright. But she has a large family which has stepped up for the children," she said.

The Yokhuselo Haven has organised a protest outside the Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court on Monday, with the Reeva Steenkamp Foundation and ANC Women's League committing to join in, to oppose the husband's bid for bail.



SEEING RED: The angry message spray-painted on the wall of the Port Elizabeth High Court
Pictures: WERNER HILLS

Many organisations in the city have also promised to play their part in raising awareness.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual activist Nonthuthuzelo Jolingana has organised a night vigil from 8pm on Friday in Kwazakhele's Njoli Square.

She said the silent gathering – participants have been asked to wear black – was meant to be a space for healing and a show of support for women.

"I'm a black [lesbian] woman living in the township, where most of these atrocities occur," Jolingana said.

"I couldn't sit and wait for my turn. I had to say enough." She said she did not feel safe in her own country.

"Not when Uyinene [Mrwetyana]

REPORT CONTINUES: P2



EXPRESSION OF FEAR: Graffiti on the court wall, capturing the growing unease about attacks on women, followed the brutal rape and murder of UCT student Uyinene Mrwetyana

'Time for total shutdown'

Dan Meyer and Dave Chambers

Protesters gathered outside parliament and at the first session of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Africa meeting in Cape Town on Wednesday as part of the national uprising against gender-based violence.

Many of those at parliament were from the University of Cape Town (UCT), where 19-year-old Uyinene Mrwetyana was a first-year student before her murder last week.

"It's time for a total shutdown," one of the students, Emily Shay, said.

"It was Women's Month [in August], but it was a bloody nightmare."

There was drama inside the WEF meeting, too, with one of the delegates throwing down her notes and saying she would only speak about gender-based violence.

African Monitor executive director Namhla Mniiki said she had been due to lead discussions about how to inno-

vate in pursuit of the UN sustainable development goals. But the uprising sparked by the murder of Mrwetyana had changed her mind.

"Many of Africa's leaders at the WEF will be grappling with Africa's current opportunities and the fourth industrial revolution," Mniiki said.

"But how can we discuss ease of doing business in a nation that is in turmoil?"

"How can we talk about artificial intelligence and drone

REPORT CONTINUES: P2

Beware of online naming, shaming

Kgaugelo Masweneng

The naming and shaming of alleged abusers on social media could land those posting their names and pictures in legal hot water.

As women across SA call out men they accuse of violating them, the law is clear – they could be sued.

Gender-based-violence activists say the trend of women naming and shaming alleged sexual predators on social media is "progressive", but Johannesburg lawyer Willem de Klerk said abuse victims should act with caution when considering whether to out the men on social media.

"To say that someone harassed or raped or otherwise abused you is defamatory," he said.

"The law allows for a defamatory statement to be made if there is proof that it is in the public interest.

"[But] when people name the alleged perpetrators of abuse on social media, they expose themselves to the possibility of being sued.

"Because often in these matters it's a case of he said, she said, and the person making the claim was the only witness and it may be very hard to prove the truth.

"So while I understand why people post the names of their alleged abusers on social media, they must be cautious before taking this step."

The brutal murder and rape of University of Cape Town student Uyinene Mrwetyana sparked outrage and saw social media flooded with allegations of sexual abuse.

Under #AmInext? #MenAreTrash and #ShutDownSouthAfrica, women have been anonymously calling out men they accuse of violating them.

Pages were then opened on social media, with women sharing pictures and the names of their alleged perpetrators.

Some described the nature of their alleged assaults, while others simply named the person.

Social media law expert Emma Sadleir said that though in some cases naming and shaming provided a far more effective form of retribution, it had legal repercussions.

"If someone finds their name on a naming and shaming list or is accused of a sexual offence on social media, they have a few options available to them.

"If they know who is behind the account, they could take legal steps – in particular, they could sue for defamation, lay a criminal complaint of crimen injuria [infringement of dignity] and/or could obtain a protection order under the Protection from Harassment Act," she said. – TimesLIVE

Uproar on social media

Lupi Ngcayisa
02 Sep at 8:59 PM

I'm tired of hearing about how these murderers were good men, church goers and all that crap. Harping on their good is low key suggesting they were provoked and acted out of character. They are murderers. They are monsters who prey on women. There's no good in cold blooded killers!

33 7 Comments • 2 Shares

Ndumi Hulley
03 Sep at 6:18 AM

Where are our children safe?? She went to pick up a parcel that her parents probably sent... Mnxxxxxxm

She was simply picking up a parcel but Luyanda Botha forced himself on her. Luyanda Botha raped her. Luyanda Botha murdered her. Luyanda Botha dumped her body.

When questioned by the police he said "yhuuu undikolisile ke"

8

Rob Valentine
Yesterday at 10:49 PM

This post will fall short of everything I mean to say.

Violence against women has to stop. It is a plague and sad news for us, men are the carrier. We are the problem.

There is no quick fix to violence against women, no magic cure. It will take generations to eradicate.

But here's the thing - that doesn't stop us from getting rid of slavery.

It doesn't stop us from getting rid of racism.

We (hopefully) don't just throw up our hands and declare inequality impossible to fix.

Educate your kids. Educate your friends, your co-workers and anyone else who needs it. Stand up for what's right. This is a problem that can be dealt with. Call someone out on their bullshit if you witness it.

I'll do the same thing and I damn well expect to be called out if I do the wrong thing as well.

Leigh-Ann Vengadajellum Hellaby
02 Sep at 4:25 PM

To all men and please don't say that it's not just men because I am addressing ALL men, it's your duty to hold your fellow male friends or colleagues or whoever accountable, be better, teach better, watch better... If someone seems distant, behaves in a way that is not okay, is seeking help but not asking for it, through behaviours you just know isn't okay then please reach out, reach out and HELP! Stop defending what you see, we could be preventing horrific acts of anger, possessiveness, pain, dominance etc

Men do better please. WE females need your protection, your strength, your SAFETY.

I don't think it's unfair to say...

MEN STEP UP!

58 6 Comments • 7 Shares

Lara Thomson • SA Women Fight Back
3 hrs

If all Women in South Africa STOPPED, for just 1 day - our country would feel it. Stop what? Stop everything... down our tools and stay home - stay away from the streets, stop the machines, stop going to work, stop carrying on as if nothing has happened. Stop being a part of this country reliance... stop and show South Africa what a country without women would be like... because that is what will be if women are continually raped, murdered and abused. We won't survive and neither would they.

Would it be impactful- yes
Would the economy fall further apart- yes
Would it make a difference- yes

Set a date ladies - let's do this - Don't take you kids to school - don't go to work - don't do your job. At this point I would hardly say it's safe for any of us to be doing these daily things anyway.

I appeal to the High end Business women - the incredible corporate climbers, the females of our country in Top positions - the stay at home carers, the shop tellers - ALL OF US! Together if we take this step- it would be the most effective way of showing a country exactly how important us women are in society, in the great scheme of life.

We deserve more... more appreciation, more respect, more loyalty from our male counterparts and from our COUNTRY.

We want change, change for the better of all women. We want justice! South Africa it's time you heard our ROAR! We are not timid and shy and scared. We are Hurt, angry and frustrated.

It's time our Brothers, fathers, husbands, bosses stood with us - support our initiative.