



**COSATU**

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## North West

### **Memorandum on the farm killing during the closure of the sixteen days of activism against violence on women and children campaign**

Today the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 Congress of South African Trade Unions and its affiliates in the North West together with the community of the North West are gathered here as progressive structures representing the interest of the Farm workers and Farm dwellers of the North West women and children who are been abused killed and assaulted every minute of their life.

We are presenting this memorandum to you all with full of hope that all what we are raising in this memorandum will be addressed by yourselves.

We are here to display our anger and dissatisfaction at the manner in which the lives of Farm Workers/Farm Dwellers women and children have been undermined by the hooligans and the white farmers who continue to terrorise them on daily basis.

The Farm workers/Farm dwellers; women and children of this country particularly in this province continue to be abused, killed, marginalised treated as third class citizens and subjected to substandard services which continue to degrade their lives while the men and white farmers continue to be free and enjoy all the rights in the constitution.

The Farm workers/Farm dwellers; women and children in this province are subjected to horrendous living conditions; with the situation worse than that of prison itself or to put it in a better

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context our people are already in hell before the judgement day arrives.

The racial, class and gender disparities which used to exist pre apartheid and in the apartheid era are still there and Farm workers/Farm dwellers; women and children are treated as if they are sub human beings or third class citizens of this country.

Farm workers/Farm dwellers; are still oppressed and women still suffer the triple oppression of gender, inequality and class.

Politicians, police, the courts and public representatives continue leave life as if these things happens elsewhere in another continent and not in our country and particularly this province.

Since the disappearance and death of Eugene Terre Blanche Farm workers/Farm dwellers; of these province have known no peace and we want to cite the following incidents as an example:

We had reported many cases to the police and our provincial government , the current new cases , the case of farm workers being killed in the Ventersdorp, in the Vryburg , Lichtenburg, Swartruggens, Ottosdal, Tigane all this cases are reported to the police and are withdrawn by both by the police investigators the NPA and the department of justice.

Women are abused, killed , their children are exposed in the manner that if they do not work in the farm with their parents they must go or the parents are evicted illegally by the farmer in the face of the police.

The Swartruggens police station is representing the views of the farmers and not of the complainants , this has been there for some times and we are about to take laws in our hands of responding back to defend our poor people in particular farm workers in their families who are abused on the daily bases by both justice system and famers .

These cases above are just but a few that we want to highlight but the list is endless



As COSATU and the people of the North West we are saying enough is enough. We have noted the failure or unwillingness of the government to deal with Farm workers/Farm dwellers; killings and assaults and gender based violence.

Our country's constitution continue to protect the perpetrator while the victims are left defenceless and at the mercy of their attackers.

It has now become a daily or hourly activity that Farm worker/Farm dweller is assaulted or killed; a women, a child or both are raped, killed physically abused, assaulted or all of the above happens to them.

What is worrying is the rate of arrest and convictions of the accused in these kind of crimes and the willingness of the court to give the perpetrators bail which is as little as a R100.00

As COSATU we have observed that more often when a white farm owner is killed for whatever reason this make the head line news in every news paper and the radio station and the whole criminal justice system stands up to make sure that the killer is brought to book and the hashes sanction is imposed on the perpetrator and when a black farm worker is killed by a white farm owner nobody cares including the judiciary system of our country.

As COSATU we believe that Farm workers/Farm dwellers; women and children should be protected by the state and failure for the state to do that is a violation of human rights.

COSATU and the community of North West including the working class and the poor will not stand on the periphery and leave the criminals to reign. And we believe that justice delayed is justice denied.

As COSATU we demand the following.

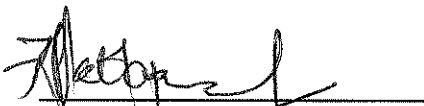
1. The full protection of Farm workers/Farm dwellers; women and children by all the entities if state and the departments.
2. The SAPS must start to treat Farm workers/Farm dwellers as human being and equal citizens of this country and




prioritise their cases and stop to prioritise the cases of farmers only.

3. The SAPS must start to prioritise all gender related crimes especially where women and children are victims.
4. There should be no bail granted to all those who are accused of killing and raping Farm workers/Farm dwellers; women and children as they often go back to intimidate bribe the police or kill the witnesses.
5. We demand that they must be full investigation on the conduct of the police in particular the police at Swartruggens, Lichtenburg and the magistrate court.

Finally COSATU demand a full commitment by the authorities to act decisively and urgently on this matter and COSATU will not rest until all these demands are met.

  
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**For COSATU**

  
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**For SAPS** *2012/12/13*

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**For Premier**

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**For HRC**

Date 2012/12/13

