



**SUPPORT THE**

**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

**INTO KHAYELITSHA POLICING!**

Everyone has the right to life, dignity and to be free from all forms of violence. However, crime or the threat of crime dominates much of our lives. To address this, we ask every person and organisation to join our “Campaign for Safe Communities”.

This is not only a campaign to mend a broken police but to ensure that our communities are developed.

The police have a duty to prevent, combat and investigate crime. SAPS and metro police must also protect the lives and property of all people in South Africa. Prosecutors, magistrates and judges have to ensure that justice is done without fear or favour. Sadly, when it comes to crime, this is mostly not the case.

Everywhere in our country people feel deeply unsafe and insecure because of crime. There is not a town, township, village, farm or city where people feel safe. So why focus on Khayelitsha? Two reasons: our organisations have mostly worked in Khayelitsha and evidence shows that the area has and continues to suffer from some of the highest serious crime rates in the country.

SAPS Crime Intelligence says that violent crime in Khayelitsha today is the same or worse than in 1999. These crimes include murder, rape, violent robberies and assault. In most other places in the country the number of murders and other violent crimes have dropped, but in Khayelitsha, these have increased.

Every day at least one person in Khayelitsha is murdered. Girls and women live in permanent fear because at least 2 rapes are reported every day. Most of the people who are raped are girls under 18. Many more people are stabbed, shot, robbed or beaten every day. No space is safe. Homes, communal toilets, churches, streets, schools, clinics, shops and transport hubs are all places where a criminal minority terrorise the majority of people in Khayelitsha.

Most recently we have witnessed brutal warfare between rival gangs of schoolchildren, resulting in the deaths of a number of young learners.

The majority of criminals are never caught or convicted. When people are arrested, only a minority are formally charged. Many of those charged are never convicted. Some may spend years in jail without bail. This is true everywhere but Khayelitsha has seen an increase in crime and little or no social development. People's trust in the police and the courts has broken down because of the failures of the criminal justice system. Some very desperate and distressed people in Khayelitsha have therefore taken the law into their own hands. As a consequence, alleged or known criminals have been murdered or assaulted in vigilante justice. There is another way. All levels of government and communities must work together.

Since December 2003, we have struggled for justice in the cases of Lorna Mlofana (raped and murdered), Nandipha Makeke (raped and murdered), Zoliswa Nkonyana (murdered) along with many others. For 10 years we have held hundreds of pickets, marches, workshops, meetings and other events to protest these injustices.

Finally, during 2010, the Social Justice Coalition (SJC), Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), Equal Education (EE), Triangle Project and others demanded a Commission of Inquiry into the Khayelitsha criminal justice system. Neither the provincial nor national governments took us seriously. In October 2011, we made it clear that unless the provincial government investigated and appointed a Commission of Inquiry, we would go to court. In August 2012, after the police had failed to respond to our complaint for 8 months, Premier Helen Zille appointed the Commission of Inquiry. In November 2012, the Minister of Police went to court to stop the Commission.

We ask you to defend the independent and impartial Commission of Inquiry into Khayelitsha SAPS. It is headed by Justice Kate O'Regan (retired Constitutional Court judge) and Advocate Vusi Pikoli (former head of the National Prosecuting Authority).

On 13 December 2012 the Cape High Court will hear the application by the SAPS to stop the Commission. We hope that the Court will reject the application and allow the Commission to continue its extremely important work.

We want Minister Mthethwa, Minister Radebe, Premier Zille, Mayor De Lille and other agencies to work with the O'Regan/Pikoli Commission and our organisations to build a safe Khayelitsha and a safe South Africa.

**Our constitutional rights to equality, dignity, life, freedom and security and the rights of accused persons are being infringed upon. Every day that the Commission is delayed, people continue to suffer at the hands of criminals and the criminal justice system.**

**PROTEST OUTSIDE THE CAPE HIGH COURT**  
**13 DECEMBER 10:00**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE  
COALITION**

**TREATMENT ACTION  
CAMPAIGN**

**TRIANGLE  
PROJECT**

**EQUAL  
EDUCATION**

**NDIFUNA  
UKWAZI**

FOR TRANSPORT FROM KHAYELITSHA CONTACT WELCOME MAKELE ON 074 852 1118.  
FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES CONTACT JOEL BREGMAN ON 072 769 0100.

[sjc.org.za/safety](http://sjc.org.za/safety)