

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

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PRESS STATEMENT ON CONTINUED HARRASSMENT OF VILLIERSDORP COMMUNITY

On Monday 20th September, several members of the Villiersdorp community, including Mr Thomas Jansen, Chair of the local Civic Association, were arrested on charges of attempted murder. They were subsequently released on bail.

The charges arise out of a decision by the community to expel a man who was demonstrably and openly working with the police and municipality against the interests of its members. The decision to expel him was taken at a general meeting attended by all Goniwe Park residents and, in view of the very great anger against him, special efforts were made to ensure that he was able to leave safely.

On Monday morning at 4pm, some 20 to 30 police vehicles arrived and arrested members of the community for attempted murder. In the process, they conducted a search for guns at the house of Mr Thembile Mdlazi to whose home they did considerable damage and also tried to prevent Mr Thomas Jansen from entering the squatter camp and, after his arrest, from handing his car keys to his wife.

The people arrested appeared in court and were released on bail without any charges being put to the accused.

The continual intimidation and harrassment of members of this community causes us grave concern. Despite representations and constant efforts on the part of the ANC and monitoring organisations, the SAP continue to wage an unremitting campaign against Mr Jansen and others working in the area.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESS CONFERENCE

In order to highlight the intolerable police treatment to which people in Goniwe Park and beyond are subjected, we will be holding a press conference at the ANC office on Thursday at 6pm. The accused in this case, other members of the Villiersdorp Civic, SANCO and the ANC REC will attend. A full briefing will be given on the background of harrassment and intimidation in the area plus full details on the recent episode.

Issued by Mziwonke Jacobs, Assistant Secretary
For more information, please contact Susan de Villiers 448-5651 or 689-2373

The People Shall Govern !