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BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)

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Wapen lisensie debakel
"Die opmerking van die Minister van Veiligheid en Sekuriteit dat afgestuur word op 'n Suid-Afrika waar slegs die veiligheidsmagte wapens sal dra, bring ongelukkig 'n nuwe dimensie aan die omstredenheid waarin die burgery se gesukkel om lisensies vir hul vuurwapens te kry, reeds gedompel is. Sommige aansoekers wag nou reeds twee jaar of langer om te hoor of hul wapenaansoeke goedgekeur is sonder om enigiets te hoor, en word nou met hierdie stelling gekonfronteer!" So sê die leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie (DA), ds. Theunis Botha.

"Die verklaarde voorneme om misdadigers sonder wapens te laat deur dit bykans onmoontlik te maak vir wetsgehoorsames om wapens te besit, hou om verskeie redes nie water nie. Misdadigers gaan nie hul onwettige wapens inhandig nie, en selfs al sou hulle dit op 'n manier kwyt wees, leer die geskiedenis dat hulle binne 'n ommesientjie kan herbewapen deur onder meer staatsarsenale te plunder, polisiebeamptes te beroof, of dit uit buurlande in te smokkel. Kort voor lank is die misdadigers herbewapen, en die onskuldige burgery weerloos".

Die argument volg dieselfde soort drogredenasie as die argument dat polisie- en weermaglede beter besoldig moet word om te keer dat hulle by misdade betrokke raak. Die grondwetlike vryhede wat Suid-Afrikaners op papier het, beteken immers min as hulle in hul eie fort-tipe huise toegesluit is, om dan maar net in hul inrypaaie, winkelsentrums en ander openbare plekke aangeval en selfs vermoor te word.

"In die geval van die jongste plaasmoorde het die slagoffers juis altyd die kluis laat oopstaan sodat enigeen kan sien hulle het nie vuurwapens en kontant in die huis nie. Na hulle bloedig aangerand is, is hulle met 'n vuurwapen geskiet wat die aanvallers saamgebring het.

"Ons stem saam dat vuurwapeneienaars behoorlik opgelei moet wees en dat die besitreg aan streng keurings- en bergingsvereistes moet voldoen. Om wetsgehoorsames in die wêreld se moord- en verkragtingshoofsetel te ontwapen kom neer op die staat se versaking van sy grondwetlike verantwoordelikhede van sy burgers. Die soort BBP-beskerming wat Julius Malema kry is immers nie almal wat bedreig word – al die land se burgers – beskore nie."

The debacle of weapon licences
"The remark of the Minister of police that eventually the only firearms carried in South Africa would be those of the security forces, adds a new dimension to the controversy of firearm owners obtaining licences. Some applicants have now been waiting for two years or more and have as yet heard nothing. This latest statement is not encouraging either." So says Christian Democratic Party (CDP) leader and acting chair of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA), Rev. Theunis Botha.

"The intention of eventually disarming criminals by making it impossible for law abiding citizens to own firearms, does not hold water. Criminals will not hand in their firearms, and history teaches us that even if somehow they end up handing in their firearms, it won't be long before they will once again be armed to the teeth by plundering state arsenals, robbing police officers or smuggling them in from neighbouring countries. We then find the situation where criminals are well armed, and the law abiding citizens unprotected. "This argument is as absurd as to argue that police officers and soldiers must be better paid to keep them from participating in crime.

"The constitutional freedoms South Africans enjoy on paper means nothing if they have to live behind bars in fortified houses, only to be attacked and even murdered in their own driveways, or in shopping malls and other public places".

“With the latest farm murders, the victims always left the door of their safe open to make it quite clear that they do not possess firearms or do not have money. Irrespective of this they were severely assaulted before being shot with a firearm the attackers brought along with them.

“We agree that the owners of firearms should be carefully screened and trained, and that firearms should be safely stored. But to disarm the law abiding citizens in the murder and rape capital of the world boils down to denying the citizens their constitutional rights. The state can after all, not provide the same VIP protection to all citizens who are in danger, as they provide for example, to Julius Malema.