

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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Arrest and threats of CPF-members cause for concern

The CDP is concerned that the arrest of Mr. Johan van der Schyff of the Valhalla Community Police Forum and threats to arrest other CPF members is turning into a witch hunt" says Richard Botha, Christian Democratic Party (CDP) Councillor in Tshwane Metro Council.

"On Sunday 03/04/2011 an incident took place where several unemployed vagrants carried a fellow vagrant to the Community Police Forum call centre in Valhalla. They alleged that he had been assaulted by members of the local CPF. The person on duty at the call centre immediately called the police and ambulance, and as the vagrants appeared agitated and threatening he also radioed CPF patrol members for back-up. Mr Johan van der Schyff immediately responded to the call. Upon his arrival, the vagrants fingered him as the person responsible for the assault on their fellow vagrant. At the same time, they took a photo of him and his vehicle with their cell phone."

"In the meantime the injured party was taken to the Kalafong hospital with serious injuries, such as a crushed leg, broken fingers and deep laceration, where he has subsequently died. Medical personnel at the hospital allegedly stated that his injuries were consistent with that of a hit-and-run road accident."

"Based on the accusations made by the vagrants the SAPS proceeded to the residence of Mr van der Schyff where they arrested him for murder, despite the fact that they had no proof or prima facie evidence, They also failed to take possession of his vehicle for forensic or DNA testing. Mr van der Schyff appeared in court and was refused bail, based on the police report. The police have since phoned and instructed 12 members of the local CPF to report to the police station to make statements. They were allegedly informed that should they report to the police station, or they would be arrested."

"Under advisement of an attorney, they declined to go to the police station or make any statements. The investigating Warrant Officer Willie Mgong subsequently began phoning each member allegedly threatening them that their failure to attend meant that they are guilty by association of the assault and that they would be arrested. The CDP is concerned that this is turning into a witch hunt and that certain actions are being taken before the cause of death has been confirmed. The Christian Democratic Party (CDP) intends taking up this matter with the Public Protector."

CDP onthuts oor arrestasie en dreigemente teen GPF-lede

Die CDP is bekommerd dat die arrestasie van mnr. Johan van der Schyff van die Valhalla Gemeenskapspolisiëringsforum en dreigemente om ander lede van die forum te arresteer besig is om in 'n heksejag te ontaard" aldus mnr. Richard Botha, raadslid van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) in die Tshwane Metroraad.

"Die afgelope Sondagand het 'n voorval plaasgevind waartydens verskeie werklose skollies 'n maker in die oproepsentrum van die GPF in Valhalla ingedra het. Hulle het beweer dat hy deur lede van die plaaslike GPF aangerand is. Die persoon aan diens het dadelik die polisie en 'n ambulans ontbied, maar aangesien die skollies ook oproerig en dreigend was, het hy GPF-lede wat op patrollie was, per radio ontbied. Mnr. Johan van der Schyff het dadelik gereageer, maar met sy aankoms by die oproepsentraum het die skollies hom dadelik as die persoon uitgewys wat hul makker sou aangerand het. Hulle het ook met hul selfoon 'n foto van hom en sy voertuig geneem."

"Die beseerde is ondertussen na die Kalofong-hospitaal geneem, met ernstige beserings soos 'n versplinterde been, gebreekte vingers en 'n diep sny. Hy is daar oorlede. Mediese personeel het na bewering aangedui dat die beserings strook met 'n tref- en trapvoorval. Op sterkte van die skollies se bewerings, het die polisie na Van der Schyff se huis gegaan, en hom gearresteer al was daar geen

prima facie getuienis nie. Hulle het ook nie die voertuig geneem om DNA of ander forensiese toetse op te doen nie. Gegrand op die polisieverlag is Van der Schyff borgtog geweier toe hy in die hof verskyn het.”

“Die polisie het sedertdien 12 lede van die GPF gebel en aangesê om polisiestatie toe te kom om verklarings af te lê. Hulle is na bewering meegedeel dat hulle gearresteer sou word wanneer hulle by die polisiestatie opdaag. Op regsadvies het hulle besluit om nie polisiestatie toe te gaan om die verklarings af te lê nie. Die ondersoekbeampte, AO Warren Mgong het hierna elke lid individueel begin bel en meegedeel dat hul versuim om op te daag, neerkom op skuldig wees deur assosiasie aan die aanranding, en dat hulle gearresteer gaan word. Die CDP is bekommerd dat hierdie in 'n heksejag ontwikkel en dat sekere stappe gedoen word voor die oorsaak van sterfte nog bepaal is. Die CDP is van plan om die saak met die Openbare Beskermer op te neem.”