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**Disebo Makau's hate crime case goes on trial in the
Klerksdorp High Court, North West province**

We ask: will justice be served?



Disebo Gift Makau: A portrait by Judy-Ann Seidman

On **Monday 18 May at 09h00**, Pule Stoffel Botlhokwane, Disebo's alleged perpetrator will appear at the Klerksdorp High Court for killing Gift Disebo Makau a 24 year old lesbian. The 25 year old male refused to seek bail and has been in police custody since August 2014.

Disebo Makau's half naked, lifeless body was found across her home in Ventersdorp, in the North West province, on August 15th 2014. She was raped and strangled with a wire around her neck and a hosepipe linked to running water was pushed down her throat.

Iranti-org and local human rights groups from the North West province will hold mass action outside the court, demanding a speedy trial and the inclusion of sexual orientation in the case.

Back in 2013, The Department of Justice took steps to introduce hate crime legislation. This proposed legislation would protect persons against hate speech and violence based on hate. African foreign nationals and the LGBTI community would be protected under such a law. The Deputy Minister of Justice committed his department to ensuring that a draft policy framework on "Combating Hate Crimes, Hate Speech and Unfair Discrimination" will be released for public engagement and later into law.

"We hope the prosecutor and the High Court will take into account Gift's sexual orientation and that the judiciary is not gender-blind. This was a hate crime. We want the judge to take heed of Duduzile Zozo's case and follow the example of Judge Tshifiwa who said: 'no one has a right to correct the other on the basis of their sexual orientation', says Kokeletso Legoete, Iranti-org's Media and Advocacy Coordinator.

About Iranti-org

Iranti-Org is a lesbian and transgender visual media organisation established in 2012. Iranti-org works within a human rights framework to raise issues of sexual orientation and gender identities. To date, Iranti-org has documented hate crimes and human rights violations across South Africa.

For more information, find us on:

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