



Press Statement by Irantí-org

15 January 2015

Sloppy work by SAPS delays Thembelihle Sokhela's case

Once again, due to the poor investigation by the South African Police Service (SAPS), the murder case of Thembelihle Sokhela has been delayed yet again. On 13 January, the case was tabled at the Benoni Magistrates Court but was once again postponed due to poor investigations by SAPS. The National Prosecuting Authority in Pretoria failed to get proper reports on the case from Daveyton SAPS and the case has now been handed over to a 3rd investigating officer, Mr Magopane. Until now, the police failed to get a statement saying Thembelihle was a lesbian and sexual orientation was a motive in this heinous crime. The police have also been slack in the gathering vital evidence, leaving behind the victim's clothes, her underwear and the blanket that wrapped her body at the scene of the crime. The case returns to Benoni Court on **Wednesday 4 February**.



SAPS Daveyton did not regard Thembelihle Sokhela blood soiled clothes as evidence and left it at the scene of the hate crime. Photo by: Iranti-org

Iranti-org and various LGBTI organisations organised a mass action outside the courts demanding a speedy trial and justice be served. We demand this case be considered as a **Hate Crime** and therefore receives urgent and immediate action by the Rapid Response Team and all other organs of the State and the judiciary.

Thembelihle, a 28 years old lesbian woman was raped and brutally murdered on September 14 2014. Her lifeless body was found two days later behind the perpetrator's bed in Daveyton. She was found wrapped in a blanket, bleeding through her nostrils, ears and mouth by the perpetrator's mother. Thabo Molefe, the perpetrator declined bail and to date remains in police custody.

We call upon all civil society organisations to join Iranti-org on 4 February when another mass action will be organised. Contact: Kay Legoete at Iranti-org, Kokeletso@iranti-org.co.za