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Disebo Gift Makau's murder was a Hate Crime

- **The Rapid Repose Team remains notably silent**



On **Thursday 29 January**, Disebo Gift Makau's case returns to the Ventersdorp Magistrate's Court in North West province. Disebo Gift Makau, a 24 year-old **lesbian** was found half naked and strangled on 15 August 2014. She had a wire around her neck with an open hosepipe pushed down her throat. www.enca.com/media/video/suspect-arrested-murder-ventersdorp-lesbian-woman

Disebo Makau's case is another example of a **hate crime**, which the Rapid Response Team, has failed to attend to. The Rapid Response Team, comprising of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, National Prosecuting Authority, South African Police Service and civil society, was set up to: *urgently attend to the pending and reported cases in the criminal justice system where hate crimes have been committed against LGBTI persons. Such a response includes victim support, efficient police work, and identifying and addressing delays in the criminal justice system*¹.

This case has been repeatedly postponed and to date, the Rapid Response Team remains **notably silent**. "In the last three cases of hate crimes against lesbians, the Rapid Response Team has been silent and invisible. We are wondering when they will start fulfilling their mandate. We would also like to know when South Africa will pass the Hate Crimes legislation" says Kokeletso Legoete, Iranti-org's Advocacy Officer.

Iranti-org and the LGBTI community from the North West Province (Gay and Lesbians of Rustenburg, Gay Umbrella from Mafikeng, groups from Ventersdorp, Klerksdorp and Potchestroom) have organised a mass action outside the Ventersdorp Magistrate Court from **9am on Thursday 29 January 2015**. Iranti-org is working closely with attorneys from Webber Wentzel Bouwens, who are monitoring the case. We hope this case finally moves to the High Court and justice is served timeously.

About Iranti-org

Iranti-Org is a lesbian and transgender visual media organisation established in 2012. It 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. www.iranti-org.co.za

¹ Terms of Reference for the Rapid Response Team to fast track pending and reported LGBTI related cases in the Criminal Justice System; Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. www.justice.gov.za