



Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the  
Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities.

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**To: Editors/Reporters**

**12 July 2020**

**MEDIA STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
CONDEMNING THE CRIMINAL ACT OF TAKING PEOPLE HOSTAGE IN A  
CHURCH RESULTING IN OTHERS LOSING THEIR LIVES**

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities strongly condemns the senseless and evil act by the criminals who took hostage of some people at the International Pentecost Holiness Church in Zuurberkom in Gauteng resulting in others losing their lives.

As the CRL Commission, we believe that regardless of the motives of the assailants who committed this hostage incident, however, there can never be any justifiable reason whatsoever for anyone to storm into a church fully armed with various types of ammunitions with an intention to attack or even take away anyone's life.

The Chairperson of the CRL Rights Commission, Professor David Mosoma denounces this incident which has turned the church into a war zone: guns against faith and prayer, a serious assault on the integrity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Regrettably, this incident demonstrates such a huge loss of moral compass where personal selfish interests has not only overtaken, but has severely undermined the spiritual principles of love for one another, peace and friendship which are to be the basis that regulates human life and interaction.

The Commission applauds the swift action by the police for apprehending some of those criminals who clearly have no respect or regard for life or even a place of worship.

We appeal to the law enforcement agencies including the prosecution team to give them the harshest punishment as their action is a daring attack on the people who ended-up being brutalised and attacked in a place expected to provide peace and

comfort. In essence, this criminal act is not only an attack on the people who were there, but it is fundamentally an attack on their faith and a serious desecration of a place of worship which many people hold in high regard.

The Commission will continue to provide support to the law enforcement agencies as well as the church wherever possible in order to help to restore order and peace and in that way enable the members of IPHC to continue with their worship activities without any fear or anxiety.

The Commission appeals to all other members of the IPHC to work with the police wherever possible to ensure that all those who are suspects and are part of this heinous act are brought to book.

For further enquiries, you can contact Mpiyakhe Mkholo at 0836594974 or Beverley Mukhavhuli at 0723944074

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