

Phiyega 'concerned' by police brutality

2013-02-28 13:04



Riah Phiyega (Deaan Vivier, Beeld)

Johannesburg - National police commissioner **Riah Phiyega** is deeply concerned about allegations that police brutality led to the death of a minibus taxi driver on the East Rand, her office said on Thursday.

"The matter is viewed by the national commissioner in a very serious light and it is strongly condemned," said her spokesperson Brigadier Phuti Setati.

Mozambican Mido Macia, 27, was allegedly dragged behind a police vehicle and was later found dead in the holding cells of the Daveyton police station, in Benoni, on Tuesday night.

Setati said the death had been reported to the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) for criminal investigation and the police would fully co-operate with its investigation to ensure justice was served.

Phiyega had also instructed acting provincial commissioner Major General Phumzo Gela to immediately start an internal investigation into the death and provide feedback as a matter of urgency, he said.

'Shocking'

Amnesty International has called the death shocking.

"This appalling incident involving excessive force is the latest in an increasingly disturbing pattern of brutal police conduct in South Africa," Amnesty International's Southern Africa director Noel Kututwa said.

"Amnesty International urges the South African government to make a public commitment to ensure that the police stop the use of excessive force and deliberate targeted killings."

On Wednesday, Ipid confirmed that the death was being probed.

"We are still interviewing the witnesses because the allegations are that he was dragged [along] with the police vehicle," spokesperson Moses Dlamini said.

Dlamini said two policemen switched on their siren, indicating that Macia should move his vehicle, when they saw it obstructing traffic in Empilweni Street earlier on Wednesday.

"It is also alleged that the taxi driver then assaulted the constable and took his police firearm," he said.

"The warrant officer overpowered the taxi driver and handed the firearm back to his colleague," he said.

The warrant officer then took a taxi to the Daveyton police station to call for back-up.

'Resisting suspect'

"When back-up arrived, the constable was still at the scene, struggling to put the suspect in the police van," said Dlamini.

He said officers put the "resisting suspect" into the police van and took him to the police cells.

He was found dead by another police officer later in the day.

An inquest docket had been opened, and the police had also opened a case of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm against the man.

Dlamini said a post mortem conducted on Wednesday indicated that the man died of head injuries, with internal bleeding.

"They [policemen] are only saying they locked him [up] and he was found by another police officer, but we are investigating," he said.

- SAPA



Julie Seaton - February 28, 2013 at 13:08

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I am simply embarrassed to be South African. How does the world view us...

51

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Susan Bates Roberts - February 28, 2013 at 13:17

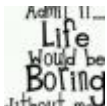
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I agree with you Julie... its alleged? There is a damned video... maybe I'm stupid though and see or understand things differently

24

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Toni Krige McQuillen - February 28, 2013 at 13:35

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This is terrible, who gives them the right to treat someone like this? Shocking!

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Mlungisi Botha - February 28, 2013 at 13:46

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People just don't die in prison. Someone kills them for God's sake. We are a violent country and we've reached the point of no return. We rape women and children and kill as a way of solving problems. If the so-called protectors of society are themselves the perpetrators of violence is it any wonder that people in this country are so negative? Of course not. This case will eventually be solved 6 months down the line and in the meantime the constitutional rights of the perpetrators are respected and they're allowed to carry on working and killing. It is embarrassing to belong to a country which becomes famous for reasons of rape, killings, corruption etc.

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Brian Tebogo Mogotsi - February 28, 2013 at 13:46

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They were busy putting together a fabricated defence, not realising the video is already out.

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Gift Ndlovu - February 28, 2013 at 13:51

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Were these white policeman.. News24

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john.tex.395 - February 28, 2013 at 13:10

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eee eish it's so brutal

14

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Sganja - February 28, 2013 at 13:38

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Phiyega must resign.

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Collen Seoka - February 28, 2013 at 13:11

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She stated clearly that she has no idea as to what her job entails, when she said we should give a year to learn. So she must just keep quite till she graduate!

13

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Cronje Scholtz - February 28, 2013 at 13:21

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viva anc viva - appoint someone not fit for the job - like all ministers

16

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Elgh Elgh - February 28, 2013 at 13:14

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He was not allegedly dragged, there is a video proving it.

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Annelise Van Der Schyff - February 28, 2013 at 13:14

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Head lines on sky news how embaresing!!!!

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AFC - February 28, 2013 at 13:17

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You know what else is embarrassing? Your spelling....

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Keg - February 28, 2013 at 13:22

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Watch it grammer partol!!!

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Jimmy Don - February 28, 2013 at 13:16

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Absolutely horrendous !

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Iyanla Jakavula-Jordan - February 28, 2013 at 13:16

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it is evident that the guy was beaten up to death... those police men must pay, its so disgusting! The law must save and protect not kill. Im sure they heard his tone that he was not SAfrican hense he was brutally beaten. Nxxxx!!!!

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[Reply to Iyanla Jakavula-Jordan](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



wreford.white.9 - February 28, 2013 at 13:16

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Oh, puleeze, our esteemed amateur Police Comish is only "concerned" because of the irrefutable video evidence of the fact.

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Reply to wreford.white.9 | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Dan - February 28, 2013 at 13:17

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Why is this called an allegation? It is blatantly clear the cops are GUILTY !! Like so many other little mis-haps in our country and with it's leaders.

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SteevO74 - February 28, 2013 at 13:17

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"We are still interviewing the witnesses because the allegations are that he was dragged [along] with the police vehicle," spokesperson Moses Dlamini said.

It's not allegations, you half-wit, the proof is on camera!

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Steven Goldswain - February 28, 2013 at 13:18

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Concerned? Concerned? It's murder by the glue that's supposed to hold a country together. WAKE UP!!!!!!!

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veldt66 - February 28, 2013 at 13:18

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Disastrous thing one expect from police officers. South Africa is savage country, I can't believe what I saw on that video! Human life is worth nothing nothing nothing, how on earth do u drag someone like that from a car? AGRRRRRR

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Reply to veldt66 | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Dave Elmore - February 28, 2013 at 13:19

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Good, get Amenesty international, the United Nations and every single human rights organisation in the world to focus on and condemn this.

Deeply concernd, she doesnt give a rats backside

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Cronje Scholtz - February 28, 2013 at 13:20

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viva anc government, viva.

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Shelley - February 28, 2013 at 13:20

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ah come on, if you watch Smoking Gun, you will be shocked to see hoe brutal those cops can be, and that is deemed to be RIGHT.

But that said and done, lets see what REALLY happened.

I know for a fact that the SAPS LOVES to Cover up their messes.

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Shelley - February 28, 2013 at 13:25

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Crap - I withdraw my statement after viewing the video.

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Shelley - February 28, 2013 at 13:43

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YIKES

Ok, i admit, THESE cops are BAD.

Guilty as hell, and all caught on video.

So you can stop donw thumbing now.

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Brad - February 28, 2013 at 13:21

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Oh! Well that makes me feel so much better about the situation...

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Keg - February 28, 2013 at 13:21

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All you are is "concerned"? what about disgusted. embarassed, dissapointed etc. You are just as useless as all the one before you.

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Ras Thami M - February 28, 2013 at 13:22

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We scared of the criminals the cops....babylon has fallen

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parryvanrooyen - February 28, 2013 at 13:24

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Am I the only one who's picked up that the other cop had to CATCH A TAXI TO THE STATION TO CALL FOR BACKUP!!!

Erm, why? Isn't that what they have radios for?

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matsutle.aphane - February 28, 2013 at 13:24

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i have seen that on TV it was so shocking,,,,! and embarrassing of our police force to act like that,,,! day light,,,! in front of people,,,!

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Reply to matsutle.aphane | 1 comment (hide) | Delete



Spats Domingo - February 28, 2013 at 13:36

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The people were actually spurring the whole thing on!!! What is this lust for blood in SA?

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Paul De la Rey - February 28, 2013 at 13:27

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Did he die because of internal injuries or something else? Wait for autopsy before we charge these idiots on a powertrip with murder.

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Theodore Mhlongo - February 28, 2013 at 13:27

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It sounds like a movie, disarming two police officers and taking their weapons and the other run to the police station to get backup, I guess he took their radio as well that they could not call for backup... A well trained Frelimo soldier... I wonder what will happen to our force if tomorrow mocambiqueu decide to wage war on us. The barracks and police stations will be empty.

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StormyWeather - February 28, 2013 at 13:36

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ha ha - good one Theodore!

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StormyWeather - February 28, 2013 at 13:27

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Alleged - falls away when there is a video you stupid woman! Not fit to be the NPC! Oh god wouldn't it be nice if we had 'Commissioner Reagan' from Blue Blood as our Police Commissioner....

****dreaming****

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Reply to StormyWeather | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Gary Doyle - February 28, 2013 at 13:28

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Phiyega must go, this idiot like Mthetwa knows sweet f*ck all about genuine police work and it's clearly showing every day. Eat humble pie jz and fire these useless pigs.

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Reply to Gary Doyle | 2 comments (hide) | Delete



Charmaine Sanic - February 28, 2013 at 13:36

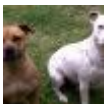
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Gary unless you a police officer i would suggest you shut your mouth. you dont know the facts of the case other then what you have read. you just want the national commissioner gone but if you can do a better job be my guest. you have no idea what is going on at top level even if you a police officer. im a expolice officer and if that police people did wrong they should be charged and if found guilty serve time.

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Gary Doyle - February 28, 2013 at 13:48

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I have my experience. Much more than just this incident to illustrate the crap in the force, why defend phiyega, she's never been right for the job. Sort the trouble from the top to the bottom.

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michael.felix.522 - February 28, 2013 at 13:29

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There is video footage. But wait and see they will be suspended for a few months and return to work. This is really Africa. NOT A PLACE FOR SISSIES ITS THE JUNGLE.OMG WHAT NEXT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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sheena.jordaan - February 28, 2013 at 13:52

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or they will lose the footage.....

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Marc van Olst - February 28, 2013 at 13:32

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'allegations' - seriously Genl Phiyega. I think we can safely say that the man 'was' dragged by your thugs, not alleged to have been 'dragged'. It must be pretty easy to identify the actual policemen and it surely doesn't need a commission of inquiry. If you can see it, there is no need to allegations. Please sort this out.

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[Reply to Marc van Olst](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Henk Venter - February 28, 2013 at 13:33

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SO, Phiyega, While you had lots of comments on Oscar and violence in the country, why is it that this members are NOT in custody? This case is plain simple and forward, even easier to proof than the Oscar case? I mean what more do you want than video evidence of this nature? What is "alleged" mean if the world can see for themselfe what the murderers are doing? I am sorry but what the police are saying and what they are doing is two different things!

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Spats Domingo - February 28, 2013 at 13:35

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Reminiscent of the old SAP!

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Siphiwo Khuzwayo - February 28, 2013 at 13:37

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Sad.This is sad. No amount of crime committed, that permits such brutality to humankind. Rest in peace Mido Macia, you did not deserve to die like this in a democratic country, like SA.

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[Reply to Siphiwo Khuzwayo](#) | [0 comments \(hide\)](#) | [Delete](#)



Lehlohonolo Craig Ponoane - February 28, 2013 at 13:38

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allegations????? is this ugly witch stupid . there is a video for f.ks sake

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sheena.jordaan - February 28, 2013 at 13:39

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so Oscar allegedly shot and killed is girlfriend and the cops were quick enough to have his butt in jail.....these cops we have on video - proving their brutality, but they are still only investigating the issue, and these cops are still allowed to be walking around??? murder is murder.....no matter how you look at it.

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Blinding - February 28, 2013 at 13:40

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Police need counsellors or at least special training to deal with the emotional impact of their jobs.

It is not surprising that our police tend to be brutal and take out their frustrations on anyone perceived as a criminal. Many officers have colleagues that get killed while on duty and their job involves alot of violence.

Only people with the emotional detachment of a psychopath would not develop a general growing animosity towards anyone that can be perceived as a possible vicious criminal.

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Albie Mwansa - February 28, 2013 at 13:44

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Police in South africa are so behind intellectually in comparison to the rest of the world, Zenophobic tendencies, Ignorance of current affairs, general knowledge competencies, are some of the common factors that inhibits the police force in SA. This then leads to such brutality only to be realised when it has been committed. They need to be educated on a continuous basis on what they can do and what they can't. Police have this tendency that they are above the law.

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Reply to Albie Mwansa | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Khanyile Busokwakhe - February 28, 2013 at 13:46

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she firstly laughed as she did at farlam commission (marikana)

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nkululeko.zulu.5 - February 28, 2013 at 13:47

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Wow for the first time she's concerned, last time i saw her she was laughing Marikana shooting.....Bheki Cele is the Man for this Position...

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Reply to nkululeko.zulu.5 | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



tsishange2 - February 28, 2013 at 13:48

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After the Oscar Pistorius case I have learned the true meaning of that famous line in the movies "you have a right to remain silent".

Deep in his heart he knows that he should have not said the intruder story just like these cops will regret saying he was found dead in the cells by another police officer.

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Reply to tsishange2 | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Albie Mwansa - February 28, 2013 at 13:49

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Phiyega Should shame these police officers in Public to prove a point. If this is done police brutality will come to an end. Its really embarrassing. In a country like SA you still have such behaviour from police officers.

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Reply to Albie Mwansa | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Lwando Memani - February 28, 2013 at 13:50

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What an incompetent minister she is. All she does is collect a pay cheque. Cadre deployment has killed this country.

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Thembinkosi Jozie - February 28, 2013 at 13:50

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In Marikana she was laughing and told police not to feel sorry. Now she is concerned?

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Stanley Mabunda - February 28, 2013 at 13:50

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jail them them for life, give their pension money to the victim's family

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Reply to Stanley Mabunda | 0 comments (hide) | Delete



Sphiwe Johannes Sibanyoni - February 28, 2013 at 13:52

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People called police, they think they're special so that they do anything they want and I don't see any difference between them and other Security guards.

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Christie Nigrini - February 28, 2013 at 13:54

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Allegations???? Did you not see the video?

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Tello Moleko - February 28, 2013 at 13:55

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assaulted constable and disarm him/her,firearm with 15 rounds,if he managed to run,how many SAs were going to be victims like Murder,house robbery and rape?maybe its not first time he rob police of firearm which he dont do from his country

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