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AFFIDAVIT

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I, the undersigned

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declare under oath as follows:

1. I am an adult female, resident at [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. I am sex worker. I am 37 years old.
2. The facts herein fall within my personal knowledge, unless the context indicates otherwise, and are true and correct.
3. I was born in Cape Town. I have lived in [REDACTED] since 2008. I live in a shack with my sister. I have two children, a boy aged 12, and a girl aged 19. I get a child support grant in respect of my boy, and that grant I give to my mother, who looks after him on my behalf.
4. My parents live together with my young son in Khayelitsha, in an RDP house. I visit my parents and my son in Khayelitsha every month. My mother is 62 years old and my father is 63 years old. They are both unemployed and they each get an old age pension from the state.

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5. On 2 December 2012 at 20:30, I received a call from a client in Parow. He made an appointment with me for that night. I was at my aunt's house for family celebration. I walked from my aunt's house in A Section in Khayelitsha to a bus stop, hoping to catch a taxi form there. However, by the time I got to the bus stop I realized it was too late and that I would not get a taxi that night. So I started walking back to my aunt's house.
6. On my way to my aunt's house, I stopped by my friend's house. Her house is close to my aunt's house. After visiting there for a while, I left to return to my aunt's house. I was walking along, approaching the near-by park, and realized there was someone following me. I looked behind me and saw a man.
7. The man told me to come with him. I wanted to know where, and I asked him, but he just insisted that I should come with him. Then he grabbed me, and dragged me into the park. I struggled to get free, and he started beating me. He started strangling me too, and he kept beating me. The struggle between us went on for what felt like hours. At the time I thought he wanted to rape me, but because of the way he was beating me and the duration of the assault I am no longer sure that he was motivated by rape.
8. I was eventually rescued by two men. They shouted at him that he should not beat a woman the way he was beating me, and they started beating him in return.
9. While the two new-comers were beating the man who had assaulted me, two police vans arrived on the scene. There was more than one police officer in each van. The officers got out and asked us what was going on. I explained to them that the man who was being beaten had attacked me and assaulted me. At that point,


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some of the officers put me in the one van, and the other officers put the man who had assaulted me in the other van.

10. The officers that had taken me into their van took me to the Khayelitsha hospital. When I arrived at the hospital, the medical staff took my details and they referred me to Tygerberg hospital, because my physical condition was very bad. To this day I have severe scarring and I have had to have several operations on my face for a broken jaw.
11. While I was in hospital, no police officer ever came to take a statement from me. I never saw the officers that had brought me to the hospital again. They did not tell me what station they were from, and they did not advise me that I could lay criminal charges. All they did was drop me off at the hospital.
12. On the day I was released from the hospital I went to Khayelitsha police station to ask about the man that had beaten me. The officers there told me that the officers that had arrived at the scene on the night of my assault had merely been sent there to break up what they had been told, by an unknown source, was "a fight". The officers that had taken the man who assaulted me into their van had apparently also just dropped him off at the hospital. So, I came to understand that no case had been opened.
13. On the day that I visited the station and got this information, I was not told by the police officers there that I could still lay a charge. They told me that there was nothing further they could do for me, and sent me away.
14. I am very angry at the police for the way my assault was handled. I feel unsafe all the time in Khayelitsha, and the man who assaulted me nearly beat me to death, and he has not been punished.

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15. I do not see what the purpose of the police in Khayelitsha is, if they cannot even deal with a case like this, where the perpetrator was in their custody and there were two witnesses. I do not think the police even questioned the men who rescued me, and they did not care that those men who had rescued me were beating the man that had assaulted me.

  
D.S.

I certify that:

1. The Deponent acknowledged to me that:
  - 1.1 She knows and understands the contents of this declaration;
  - 1.2 She has no objection to taking the prescribed oath;
  - 1.3 She considers the prescribed oath to be binding on her conscience.
2. The Deponent thereafter uttered the words, "I swear that the contents of this declaration are true, so help me God".

The Deponent signed this declaration in my presence at **CAPE TOWN** on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of **November 2013**.

  
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS

**Sandie MacDonald**  
MACDONALD ATTORNEYS  
5th Floor, Constitution House  
124 Adderley Street, CAPE TOWN, RSA  
Commissioner of Oaths  
Practising Attorney

D.S.