

# Another Marikana murder

**NIVASHNI NAIR**

THE Farlam Commission of Inquiry investigating the killing of 44 people near Lonmin's Marikana mine in August, said yesterday the latest murder of a potential witness was "worrying".

"As a commission we have every reason to be worried because a potential witness [can no longer] shed light [on the inquiry]. But even with these constraints, the commission would have to continue and police would have to continue their investigation," said the commission's spokesman, Tshepo Mahlangu.

The organiser of the Amcu trade union in North West, Steve Khululekile — who was expected to

## Union man shot dead in tavern by unknown assassin

testify at the hearings — was shot dead on Saturday in Billy's Tavern, near shaft 2 of Anglo Platinum's Khomanani mine, in Rustenburg.

One of four men who entered the tavern drew a 9mm pistol and shot Khululekile four times.

He died on the scene. No arrests have been made.

● In the early hours of yesterday morning twin brothers were killed in a shack in Nkaneng township, near Wonderkop, where thousands of workers gathered before the August 16 Marikana shootings. The brothers' attackers are said to have asked them for information on the whereabouts of another man.

As the police raced to the scene of the twins' killing they were met by a crowd of people near Wonderkop who started shooting at them. The police retaliated.

North West police spokesman Brigadier Thulani Ngubane would not speculate on whether this case was related to the Khululekile shooting.

"It would be dangerous for me to take that route without further confirmation," he said.

Alton Joja, the sangoma who reportedly supplied the striking miners with muti that they believed would make them invulnerable to police bullets, was murdered in his

home town, Bizana, in Eastern Cape in March.

Mahlangu said it was natural for those testifying to the commission to be concerned about their safety.

But, he said, the commission was not aware of a link between the murders of Khululekile and Joja.

Joja had been expected to testify about the rituals he performed to confer protection on the Lonmin mineworkers before the August 16 shooting.

Last month Dali Mpofu, the lawyer representing the families of strikers at the commission, was robbed and stabbed while walking on a beach in East London.

Hawks spokesman Captain Paul Ramaloko yesterday could not confirm a link between the attacks.

"It is not our policy to make public the direction of our investigation. I can confirm that the cases are being investigated but I cannot confirm a link," he said.

Ngubane said each case was treated on its merits.

"We cannot pre-empt anything. A link can only be revealed by the investigation and the investigation is currently on.

"What we are investigating is just a murder. The investigation will reveal if there was political motivation or any other motive for the killing," he said.

Detectives have not established a motive for Khululekile's murder.

# Prominent union leader gunned down in Marikana

**LEBOGANG SEALE**

RENEWED violence could flare up in Marikana and other platinum mines following the murder of a prominent union leader on Saturday.

Mawethu Khululekile Steven, the regional organiser in Rustenburg's platinum belt of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Workers Union (Amcu), was gunned down execution style at Billy's Tavern in Photsaneng, near Khomanani shaft No 2.

Unidentified men stormed the tavern at about 12.45pm before one of them shot Khululekile.

"I saw four men covering their heads with hats. One of them was pointing his gun down at Bra Steve (Khululekile) and shooting at him.

"There were about 20 people inside the hall and they were all screaming and ducking for cover," an employee at Billy's Tavern, who asked not to be identified, said.

Yesterday, the atmosphere was tense in Marikana as fears and loathing returned to the residential areas around Karee and the neighbouring Lonmin mines.

In Marikana, the scene of last year's massacre when police killed 34 striking Lonmin miners, more than 2 000 angry Amcu members converged at the infamous koppie.

During the meeting, attended by leaders from Anglo American Platinum, speakers were unanimous in their condemnation of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), who they blamed for the murder of Khululekile and that of other members.

Khululekile's friend, who said he was Amcu's chairman in the Karee Mine, said the shooting was related to the ongoing rivalry between Amcu and the NUM.

"I have no doubt that this is related to the Amcu-NUM conflict," Mceli Baliman said, adding that Khululekile was a key witness in the Farlam Commission of Inquiry into the Marikana massacre.

NUM spokesman Lesiba Seshoka dismissed the allegations as "pure nonsense".

# No arrests yet after Amcu man's murder

## **STEVEN TAU AND SAPA**

NO arrests have been made after the murder of a North West Amcu regional organiser in Rustenburg at the weekend.

Police spokesman Thulani Ngubane said the 46-year-old man was shot dead by a group of men at Billy's Tavern near Anglo Platinum Mine's Khomanani mine shaft two on Saturday.

"It is alleged that the group stormed into the tavern, and one of the suspects carrying a 9mm pistol, fired four shots at the victim who died at the scene.

"The police are still looking for the suspects," he said.

The man cannot be identified as his family have yet to be notified.

The four men involved in the shooting remain on the run.

It is believed the suspects were wearing blue overalls, while the deceased who was watching a soccer match at the time of the shooting, was in his Amcu-branded T-shirt.

North West Premier Thandi Modise said workers should not be incited to commit violence against each other.

"Workers should resist the temptation to be drawn towards violence against each other by faceless people and give the investigation a chance," she said.

United Democratic Movement leader Bantu Holomisa said it was too early to predict who might have been behind the killing, saying it could have been rivals, the National Union of Mineworkers or the state.

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# Brothers slain near Marikana

TWO brothers were killed and two women were injured in a shooting at the Nkaneng informal settlement near Marikana, North West police said yesterday.

Brigadier Thulani Ngubane said a group of armed men, wearing blankets and balaclavas, stormed into the shack on Saturday night. They apparently asked the twin brothers about the whereabouts of another man. Ngubane said when the brothers said they did not know the man, they were shot.

“The one brother who was shot two times died on the scene, while the other brother died on arrival at the Andrew Saffy hospital.”

Two women who were in the shack at the time of the shooting were wounded. One was shot in the thigh while the other was hit with a panga.

As police made their way to the scene of the shooting, a group of people in Wonderkop started shooting at them. Police retaliated. Nobody was wounded. No arrests were made. – *Sapa*.

# THREE MINERS KILLED IN DAY

## No connection yet, police say

### Katlego Moeng

IT WAS a bloody weekend for Rustenburg mineworkers that has ended with the police investigating the killing of three men in two incidents on Saturday.

North West police spokesman Brigadier Thulani Ngubane said officers were hunting four men who came into Billy's Tavern near Anglo Platinum's Khomanani mine and fatally shot Steve Khululekile, 46, who was a regional organiser for the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu).

Ngubane said police are also investigating the killing of two brothers at Nkaneng informal settlement on Saturday night. Nkaneng is populated by mainly mineworkers at Lonmin's Marikana mine.

"At this stage we are not drawing any parallels between the killings. Investigations will show if there is any connection," said Ngubane.

But Amcu spokesman Jo Mangaliso Mdhlela said: "This murder [of Khululekile] cannot be an isolated incident. He was meant to testify before the (Farlam) Marikana Commission of Inquiry. Those who fear the truth must be responsible for his murder."

Judge Ian Farlam's commission is investigating the death of 44 people during the strike in Marikana, in August. Commission spokesman Tshepo Mahlangu could not be reached for comment yesterday.

- In March, sangoma Alton Joja was shot dead at his home in Ludeke Holt village in Mbizana, Eastern Cape. He was meant to testify at the Farlam Commission. Joja was believed to have performed rituals on mineworkers.

- Last month, advocate Dali Mpofu, who represents miners involved in the police shootings, was robbed and stabbed while walking on the beach in East London.

- Lungani Mabutyana, 27, a survivor of the police shooting, was found hanging from a tree at Marikana last week. He was due to testify at the commission and is the second witness to take his own life.

- Marvelous Mpofane, wounded in the shooting, hanged himself in his Marikana home in December.

Meanwhile, North West premier Thandi Modise urged workers not to be incited to commit violence.

"Workers should resist the temptation to be drawn towards violence against each other by faceless people and give the investigation a chance," she said.

# A third force on Marikana?

THE murder in cold blood of Steve Khululekile, a leader of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union and a witness in the Marikana Commission of Inquiry is worrying.

Not that any other murders are less concerning. In a country in which violent crime is one of the biggest problems, any addition to the already horrible statistics gall us all.

But there is something more that we ought to be worried about in relation to the killing of Khululekile in a tavern in Rustenburg by gunmen who apparently had no other motive other than to take his life.

His death follows the recent mysterious murder of Alton Joja, a sangoma from Eastern Cape, who was also expected to be a witness in the Marikana Commission of Inquiry.

Joja was expected to testify about his alleged role in dispensing muthi to rioting miners who believed it guaranteed them invincibility when facing heavily armed police.

A few weeks ago, advocate Dali Mpofu, a lawyer representing the families of slain Marikana miners, was stabbed during what looked like a robbery on an East London beach.

All three cases may or may not be related. There are two similarities so far. First, all three individuals were involved in the Marikana Commission.

Secondly, no suspects have been arrested. We must not rule out other motives unrelated to Marikana. But questions are inevitable? Are these cases really accidental? Is there an attempt to intimidate witnesses of the inquiry?

Police should speed up the investigation into the three criminal acts – lest the Marikana death toll might continue to rise unnoticed.

# 3de vermoor voor hy oor Marikana kan sê

## Susan Cilliers

'n Vakbandleier in Rustenburg wat glo nog voor die Farlam-kommisie van ondersoek na die Marikana-slagting moes getuig, is die derde persoon wat vermoor is voordat hy kon getuig.

Stephen Kolekile (46) is Saterdag doodgeskiet terwyl hy in Billy's Tavern, 'n kroeg naby Anglo Platinum se Khomanani-myn, sokker op TV gekyk het.

Volgens brig. Thulani Ngubane, kommunikasiehoof van die polisie in Noordwes, is hy eergister omstreeks 13:00 vier keer op 'n kort afstand met 'n 9 mm-pistool in die rug geskiet.

Vier mans in blou oorpakke het die kroeg kort voor die skietery binnegekrom. Een van hulle het geskiet.

Al vier die mans het wegge-

hardloop en is nog soek.

Die werklose Kolekile was 'n streekorganiseerder van die vakbond Amcu in Noordwes.

Jimmy Gama, Amcu-woordvoerder, het gister gesê die vakbond hou vandag 'n mediakonferensie oor die moord.

Thandi Modise, premier, het die moord veroordeel en 'n kalmte gevra.

“Mynwerkers moet daarteen waak om by geweld ingetrek te word en die ondersoek (na die Marikana-gebeure) 'n kans gee,” het Modise gesê.

Alton Joja, die sangoma wat glo voor die skietery op 16 Augustus verlede jaar waarin 34 myners dood is, moeties aan die mynwerkers gegee het om hulle “onsterflik” te maak, is in Maart by sy huis in die Oos-Kaap doodgeskiet.

Daluvuyo Bongo, 'n NUM-streeksekretaris in Noordwes wat ook voor die kommissie sou getuig, is in Oktober verlede jaar vermoor.

Adv. Dali Mpofu, wat die myners voor die kommissie verteenwoordig, is verlede maand verskeie kere met 'n mes gesteek toe hy op 'n Oos-Londense strand beroof is.

Die Farlam-kommissie ondersoek die dood van 44 mense verlede jaar (34 op 16 Augustus en nog 10 in die voorafgaande weke) in polisie-optrede tydens 'n staking oor onder meer lone by Lonmin se Marikana-myn.

Die jongste aanval Saterdag was te midde van hernude spanning in die mynsektor terwyl Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) beplan om 6 000 werkers af te dank.

# Fears after Amcu leader slain

## Thousands converge on Marikana, accusing NUM of murder

**LEBOGANG SEALE**

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**T**HERE were fears that renewed violence could flare up in Marikana and other platinum mines following the murder of a prominent union leader on Saturday.

Mawethu Khululekile Steven, regional organiser in Rustenburg's platinum belt of the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Workers Union (Amcu), was gunned down execution-style at Billy's Tavern in Photsaneng, near Khomanani shaft No 2.

About four unidentified men stormed the tavern at about 12.45pm before one of them pumped shots into Steven.

"I saw four men covering their heads with hats. One of them was pointing his gun down at Bra Steve (Khululekile) and shooting at him.

"There were about 20 people inside the hall and they were all screaming and ducking for cover underneath the table," said an employee at Billy's Tavern, who refused to

be identified.

He said he was behind the counter when he was shaken by the rattling sound of gunshots.

Yesterday, the atmosphere was tense in Marikana, with Steven's murder being the subject of discussion as fear and loathing returned to the residential areas around Karee, and the neighbouring Lonmin mines.

In Marikana – scene of last year's massacre when police shot and killed 34 striking Lonmin miners – more than 2 000 angry Amcu members converged at the infamous koppie.

**TWO BROTHERS** were killed and two women injured in a shooting at the Nkaneng informal settlement near Marikana, North West police said yesterday.

According to Brigadier Thulani Ngubane, a group of armed men, wrapped in blankets and wearing balaclavas, stormed into a shack on Saturday night.

They apparently asked the twin brothers about the whereabouts of another man.

During the tense meeting, also attended by leaders from Anglo Platinum and Implats and lasting almost two hours, speakers were unanimous in

**They think if they kill our members the truth will die**

their condemnation of rival union the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which they blamed for the murders

**Twins die in shack attack**

When the brothers said they did not know the man, they were shot.

"The one brother, who was shot twice, died at the scene, while the other died on arrival at the Andrew Saffy hospital."

Two women in the shack at

of Steven and other members.

Steven's friend, Mceli Baliman, who claimed to be Amcu chairman on the Karee Mine, said the shooting was related to the ongoing rivalry between Amcu and the NUM.

"I don't have evidence, but I have no doubt that this is related to the Amcu-NUM conflict. Why is it that he was killed after the announcement that Amcu is now officially the majority union in Lonmin and other mines?"

He said the shooting was to silence Steven, as he was a key witness in the Farlam Commission of Inquiry.

"They think if they kill

the time of the shooting were wounded. One was shot in the thigh while the other was hit with a panga.

The women were discharged from hospital yesterday.

Ngubane said as police made their way to the shooting, a group of people in the Wonderkop area started shooting at them.

Police retaliated, but nobody was wounded. – Sapa

our members, the truth will just die," Baliman said, adding that many mineworkers, especially in Karee and Lonmin, were now so afraid of being killed they were considering quitting their jobs.

"Nobody feels safe now. Everybody is scared."

But NUM spokesman Lesiba Seshoka dismissed the allegations as "pure nonsense".

"If people have evidence, as they appear to have, they must approach the police and hand over that evidence because we all need to have people who behave in that manner arrested and prosecuted.

"The NUM has never been a violent union and it is not going to be, and people must not want to throw such mud at us," he said.

Mine bosses also came under attack yesterday, with Amcu leaders from various mines lashing out at them for their reluctance to recognise Amcu.

They called on Lonmin bosses, the police and the government to shut down all NUM offices in the belt.

### TIMELINE

#### OCTOBER 2012

- Daluvuyo Bongo was shot dead at Lonmin's Wonderkop Hostel. Bongo was a National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) branch secretary. He was to testify at the Marikana Commission on behalf of NUM.

#### MARCH 2013

- Marikana sangoma Alton Joja, 69, killed execution-style at his home in the former Transkei. The sangoma was to be a witness for the police at the Marikana hearings. During the strike, Joja had sent his sons to perform rituals that were meant to make the miners invincible.

#### APRIL 2013

- Marikana Commission lawyer Dali Mpfu, right, stabbed and robbed near East London's Eastern Beach in the Eastern Cape. He was attacked by two people while he was on a break from the commission.

#### MAY 2013

- Lungani Mabutyana, 27, found hanging from a tree last week near the scene of the August 16 Marikana shootings. As a rock drill operator, he was one of the Marikana survivors who were to testify at the commission. He had twice before tried to commit suicide after suffering financial problems. He had allegedly been fired from his job in March.

- AMCU official Mawethu Khululekile Steven was shot dead at a tavern in Rustenburg near Khomanani mine shaft No 2 at the weekend. He was due to testify at the commission.



# AMCU member gunned down in tavern

ELI'S TORERA AND  
LUYOLOM M. STANE

POLICE in Rustenburg are appealing to members of the public to assist with information that may lead to the arrest of four assailants who allegedly gunned down an Association of Metalworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) organiser in Photsaneng on Saturday night.

Provincial police spokesperson Brig Thulani Ngubane said the deceased, 46, was shot while he was relaxing at a local tavern.

"The incident happened near Khomanani shaft number 2, in the Rustenburg area. It is reported that the deceased, who is alleged to be the regional organiser of AMCU, in the Rustenburg platinum belt, was watching soccer and having a good time with his friends in the local tavern.

Four men allegedly entered the tavern, one armed with a 9mm pistol. He fired shots at the

deceased. Four bullets caught the back of the deceased at close range and he died on the scene," he said, adding the deceased was from the Eastern Cape.

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**There is a conspiracy ... the NUM is involved. We want the police to investigate the matter**

"The four suspects, who could only be identified by their blue overalls, fled the scene on foot.

Police are appealing to anyone who may have any knowledge or information on the suspects to come forward and report the incident to the police. A case of murder is being investigated and

anyone with information can contact Col Chomela, on cell number: 082 772-8124, or 112 from their cell phones or use the landline and dial 10111," Ngubane said.

Meanwhile, AMCU is set to brief the media today about the incident, it said yesterday.

Amplats miner and workers' representative Gaddafi Mdoda said they suspected that the rival National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) was involved in the attack.

"The people on the ground are saying so. There is a conspiracy – the NUM is involved. We want the police to investigate the matter," said Mdoda.

NUM spokesperson Lesiba Seshoka said: "If anyone has evidence that the NUM is responsible for the killing, they must hand over that evidence to the police so that they can arrest those responsible.

"We are not a union that operates on the basis of violence."

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# Third death shocks Marikana inquiry!

By ELLEKIA DIRE

**A THIRD man has died violently before he could testify at the Marikana inquiry!**

He was an Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) regional co-ordinator and came from the Eastern Cape.

Mawethu Steven (47) was shot dead on Saturday at a tavern in Photsaneng Village near Marikana, North West.

Witness Hendrick Lethoo (32), who knew him, said four men entered the tavern at midday and fired five shots.

Mawethu, who was wearing an Amcu T-shirt, was hit four times in the back. One shot missed Mawethu.

He was expected to testify to the Marikana inquiry set up to investigate the police killing of 34 people last August during the Lonmin Platinum Mine strike.

Police said a 9mm pistol was used.

"Steve was a nice person and never had a grudge against anyone," said Hendrick. "He knew there were people after him. That's why he stopped drinking at taverns near where he lives."

Amcu regional chairman Mceli Balimani said the union had lost a real leader. "We are shocked and sad. We trust the police will get

to the bottom of this and the culprit will be arrested and prosecuted," said Balimani.

Residents at Marikana compound, where Mawethu was staying, were angry.

"They want to destabilise Amcu for bringing hope to the workers," said one resident. "We believe unions that were there before are scared of this new union," he said.

Lonmin miner Lungani Mabutyana (27) of Matatiele, in the Eastern Cape, allegedly committed suicide last week. He had been subpoenaed to testify to the commission.

The traditional healer said to have performed rituals for Lonmin strikers was also shot dead, execution style, near his home in Ludeke Holt Village in Bizana, Eastern Cape, in March. Police were trying to get Alton Joja, better known as Ndzabe, to testify to the commission too.

■ Police are investigating two cases of murder and attempted murder after a group of men dressed in blankets and balaclavas allegedly attacked five people in a shack at Nkaneng squatter camp in Marikana.

Twin brothers died after they were shot. One died at the scene and the other at Andrew Saffy Hospital in Marikana.