



## South Africa: LGBTI rights defender killed

**To General MV Phiyega, National Commissioner, South African Police Service**

Dear General Phiyega

I am writing with deep concern about prejudice-motivated violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. I wish to draw your particular attention to the murder on 24 April 2011 of **Noxolo Nogwaza** in KwaThema - police case number **635/04/2011**.

I am disturbed that, almost two years after her death, no progress has been made in investigating Noxolo Nogwaza's murder and arresting her killers. This failure increases the impact, for those who knew her, of the terrible acts of violence and hate which led to her death. This situation of impunity also places others at risk of harassment, discrimination and hate-motivated violence on the grounds of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. At least seven LGBTI individuals in four provinces were murdered in 2012 in what appear to be hate crimes related to their sexual orientation or gender identity, increasing the levels of fear amongst LGBTI people in South Africa.

I congratulate the positive steps taken by the South African Police Service to respond to gender-based violence affecting LGBTI people, including participating in the National Task Team to seek solutions to how this violence can be combated.

I respectfully urge the National Commissioner to continue with the good work already started and to:

1. Ensure that police authorities give their full attention to thoroughly investigating Noxolo Nogwaza's murder so that those found to be responsible may be brought to justice without further delay.
2. Publicly condemn, in the strongest possible terms, targeted violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals.
3. Allocate greater resources to training of all police personnel on their legal obligations to provide non-discriminatory and professional services to LGBTI individuals, including in the prevention and investigation of crimes of targeted violence and other forms of harassment and abuse.
4. Ensure that every police station implements clear instructions on these obligations and trains dedicated officers to properly investigate crimes of targeted violence – including on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression – in an efficient and unbiased manner.

I thank you for your attention. Yours sincerely,

Name	Address	Signature
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**Deutsch: Die LGBTI-Aktivistin Noxolo Nogwaza wurde vor zwei Jahren umgebracht, doch bis heute stecken die Ermittlungen fest. Dies ist Appell an den Polizeichef Südafrikas, der grassierenden homophoben und transphoben Gewalt Einhalt zu bieten und Hassverbrechen aufzuklären.**

Dieser Brief geht an den Polizeichef, General MV Phiyega, National Commissioner, South African Police Service, Private Bag X94, Pretoria 0001, SA, Fax: +27 12 393 2616, Email: [natcomm@saps.org.za](mailto:natcomm@saps.org.za)

Eine Kopie des Briefes geht an die Südafrikanische Botschaft, Alpenstrasse 29, 3006 Bern.

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