

SOUTH AFRICA UPDATE

Dispatches from a Darkening Corner of the Dark Continent

SNIPPETS FROM SOUTH AFRICA: FEBRUARY 2010

by Shaun Willcock

The purpose of these articles is to provide insightful comment on the contemporary South African and southern African scene from a Christian, “politically-incorrect” perspective, in order to counter the propaganda of the Reds, almost-Reds (liberals and others), religious Reds (“liberation theologians”), and all their fellow-travellers; and to encourage Christians to pray for the people of this beautiful but desperately needy part of the world, and especially for their Christian brethren living here; and to do what they can to assist them.

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The Film and Publications Amendment Act: an Assault on Freedom of Expression in South Africa

Although it hardly received the publicity it should have, both in South Africa and internationally, legislation was passed in 2009 that is a grave intrusion on freedom of expression in the country, and has very dangerous implications for Christians who publish Christian materials.¹

The Film and Publications Amendment Act was signed by President Jacob Zuma. It requires that publications, films and games first be submitted to the Film and Publications Board if they: contain explicit sexual conduct which violates or shows disrespect for the right to human dignity; degrade any person; constitute incitement to cause harm; are propaganda for war; incite violence; or advocate hatred based on any identifiable group characteristic.

The act also specifically provides that the board must ban any material which, in their view, contains: child pornography, bestiality, incest or rape; conduct or an act which constitutes incitement of or encourages or promotes harmful behaviour; explicit infliction of sexual or domestic violence; or explicit visual presentations of extreme violence.

And failure to submit such material will incur a five-year jail sentence, or a fine, or both.

The media industry was deeply concerned that the act would criminalise freedom of expression and pave the way for pre-publication censorship. The executive director of the Freedom of Expression Institute, Melissa Moore, said, “Certain sections of the amendment act

fail dismally in giving effect to the right to freedom of expression and constitute a grave intrusion.” The most intrusive element was that, under the guise of protecting children’s rights, the legislature had introduced a system of pre-publication censorship which was unconstitutional. “This will in turn open the regulation of publications, films and games up to abuse and inhibit the free flow of information,” she said.

There was an exception for pre-publication censorship for newspapers that fell under the ombudsman, but 500 other newspapers and publications did not. “In no way does the institute support or condone child pornography, the incitement of imminent violence, propaganda for war or hate speech. However, we view the provisions as unjustifiable, unreasonable and arbitrary limitations on the right to freedom of expression in that the provisions limit the right to freedom of expression.”

The Publishers’ Association of South Africa said that protecting children from sexual abuse and combatting child pornography could be achieved without this act, which would cripple the publishing industry: “it might have good intentions, but who knows how it can be misused ten years down the line,” said the association’s legal affairs chairman, Nicol Faasen.

For Christians it can readily be seen that this new act is potentially very dangerous. We fully support any legislation that bans the depiction of such vile things as child – or adult – pornography, bestiality, incest, rape, gratuitous violence, etc. “Freedom of expression” must have limits, and such things should never, ever be permitted anywhere in the world. But the danger for Christians is found in that part of the act which states that publications or films must be submitted to the board if they advocate hatred based on any identifiable group characteristic. No true Christian, of course, teaches anyone to hate others, or to seek to harm others based on their religion or any other characteristic; but this is how (for example) Christian books could be perceived by the Film and Publications Board, if such books speak strongly against false religion (such as Roman Catholicism or Islam) or sinful practices (such as sodomy). When such things are condemned in a Christian publication, those who hate Christianity could argue that this is “advocating hatred based on religion” or on “sexual orientation.” It certainly is not, but they might argue that way.

If a true Christian writes a book, he should never submit it to such a board, comprised of men of various religions or none, for them to decide whether or not the book can be published! That is outrageous. Matters of Christian doctrine and practice do not fall within the jurisdiction or oversight of the State. No true Christian should ever seek permission from the State to publish a work! Yet this is what the act insists must be done.

True Christians are urged to pray that this piece of legislation would be overturned, for it constitutes a grave threat to the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ in South Africa. It joins a whole host of other laws which are now in effect in this country, virtually eliminating religious freedom and paving the way for persecution of Christians.² The threat is very real and we must look to the Lord for protection, and for the grace and courage to continue serving Him faithfully.

Chilling Report: Cuban-Style “Community Spies” Could be Established in South Africa!

If a National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) plan for compulsory community service is approved, South Africa could see Cuban-Style revolutionary youth spies on every street corner.

The chairman of the NYDA, Andile Lungisa, who was also deputy president of the ANC Youth League, said that in countries like Cuba, children as young as 13 have become “defenders of the revolution”, keeping a close watch on the activities of people in their neighbourhoods; and he said the Agency would like to see this happening in SA as well!³ He said the Agency wanted to make the national youth service programme compulsory for all young people.

One must remember South Africa’s frightening recent history. Before the African National

Congress (ANC) came to power and was waging a terrorist campaign against the State, it already had such neighbourhood spies in place in the black townships: street committees which watched and monitored the comings and goings of people, and dealt out harsh “street justice” at “kangaroo courts” to anyone suspected of being an informant or a collaborator with the State. It was a form of control by sheer terror, and was highly effective. If such spies ever were brought back, it would just be the reinstatement of what the ANC has done before – but now on a national scale, and with government backing.

Marxist revolutionaries have always used children to accomplish their goals.⁴ This is because children are highly impressionable, and can be manipulated any way those above them desire. The thought of children having such power as to monitor the comings and goings of people in their own streets and neighbourhoods, thereby playing a major role in ensuring that everyone complies with whatever the ANC desires, is chilling indeed. Is this the direction SA is headed? Christians must pray that the Lord would spare us the horrors of such intimidation and coercion!

The Shocking State of South Africa's Hospitals

Is this the country whose health care system was once one of the very best on earth? Is this the country that produced the world's first heart transplant?

Parliament's portfolio committee on health was told in October 2009 that SA's public hospitals are in a shocking state: failing equipment, lack of basic consumables, dwindling numbers of doctors. Professor Bongani Mayozi, head of internal medicine at the University of Cape Town, told the committee that it takes up to three days for patients to get a bed in a public hospital. “These people are sitting on a chair or lying on a trolley. They are very sick. They need to be admitted. Some people wait up to three days to get into a bed. We regard this situation as completely unacceptable, something that you would not wish on your mother or father.”⁵

He said surgical lists in many centres have been cut, equipment has not been renewed, there is an overall decrease in tertiary level beds, and the capacity to train new doctors has been severely diminished. He said that SA is producing 0.58 doctors per 1000 people. Brazil and Mexico, with a similar gross domestic product per capita, are producing nearly two doctors per 1000 people. “As a result of this, South Africa's infant mortality rate is a lot higher than it should be and more people are dying from infectious diseases,” he said.

And the cause of this terrible state of affairs? Mayozi was straightforward: “When one looks at the reasons for the lack of progress, they are not difficult to find. They are related to under-investment in our public health sector over the past 15 years.” In other words, since the ANC became the government in 1994!

The acting head of the School of Medicine at the University of the Free State, Andries Stulting, said the province's health care situation is dire. “There is a collapse of systems in the Free State,” he said. “TB, HIV, primary health care, hospital services, training platforms, research, you name it, we are declining. We can't do elective surgery anymore. Patients come with hernias and cataracts. They don't seem to be emergencies, so we cannot operate. People go blind and people can't do their work. We don't have basic things like eye pads, eye shields, medications... or should we keep quiet because we can be reprimanded? I hope I can give you some good news, but at the moment there is none.”⁶

In every field, South Africa is collapsing. Everything is running down: health care, the justice system, law enforcement, roads, municipalities, power, telecommunications, everything. Once the greatest country in Africa, one of the greatest in the world, today it is a shadow of what it was then, and worsening all the time. And the blame must be laid squarely at the feet of arrogant leaders, who are so busy implementing their failed ideology that they are sacrificing skill and competence in its pursuit.

Mother and Daughter Brutally Murdered, Daughter Also Raped

In September 2008 an Indian South African woman from Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal province was murdered, and her ten-year-old daughter were raped and then murdered, by two black men. Both men were jailed for life in January 2010, one of them being handed two life terms for murder and rape.⁷

Both men had worked for the woman's husband, who was out of the country at the time. In their court statements, the men described how they lay in wait for the mother and daughter to return home. The mother was strangled with a scarf. One of the men then raped the ten-year-old girl, after which he hanged the child from the ceiling. Both died from asphyxiation. They were murdered so that they could not identify the men.

No one can possibly imagine either the suffering of the mother and daughter, or later of their family members upon learning of what had happened to them. That men could do such things to a girl of ten is so horrifying that the mind reels from even thinking of it. In these two men we see the depravity of man graphically, hideously manifested. And yet this is not an isolated case in South Africa today, the country with the highest crime rate in the world. Brute beasts are roaming our streets, while innocent people live behind barred doors and windows. The innocent are caged, the wicked walk free. It is good when some are caught and punished, as these two men were (although what a disgrace that SA no longer has the death penalty); but for every one who is apprehended and sentenced, many others get away with their crimes. There are many factors for the massive rise in violent crime (although poverty is *not* one of them, contrary to what liberal hand-wringers love to claim – the argument that “I'm poor, therefore I rape and murder” is absolute nonsense), but above all others is this: an utter moral collapse in society, brought about largely by the preaching of a false “gospel”, and the diminishing of the preaching of the true Gospel. This is the root cause of the crime wave that is engulfing South Africa. Then comes the ideology of the ruling party, tying the hands of the police and treating criminals with kid gloves.

Young Woman Survives Being Thrown Off a High Bridge

In November 2009 a young Indian South African woman, Kavisha Seevnaarain (26), was hijacked by a group of Zulu thugs and tossed off a 60-metre high bridge on the freeway near the town of Umkomaas in the early hours of the morning.

Her four-hour ordeal started at about 10pm on a Friday night when six men hijacked her in her car. She was then held at gunpoint in their car, while her car, handbag, bank cards, and R2000 were all stolen. And when the hijackers parked at a vacant ground they drank alcohol and discussed how they would kill her. Kavisha was then taken to the bridge over the Umkomaas river, and two of the men tossed her over the side. She clung to the metal rails of the bridge and pleaded for her life, but they told her they could not let her live, and repeatedly kicked her hands and fingers until she could no longer hold on. She then plunged from the bridge, falling 60 metres into the river.

Despite having a shattered pelvis and broken ribs, she managed to crawl out of the river and lie, semi-conscious, on the river bank for almost four hours until a passer-by came to her rescue. Her distraught father said, “They treated my child as if she was an inanimate object. They had no respect for human life and deserve the harshest sentence.” He added: “When Kavisha was a little girl and if she got hurt, I used to kiss her on the cheek and reassure her. But after going through such an ordeal, what comfort do I give her? What do I say to her that will make her feel safe gain?”⁸ His pain and anguish is what thousands, tens of thousands, of South African fathers are feeling, their children having been victims of violent criminals.

For once, South Africa's notoriously weak justice system moved swiftly, perhaps partly as a result of the international attention the case received, but also through good police work performed by exceptional policemen (so often the exception rather than the rule these days). Police apprehended the suspects and within a short time two men were sentenced, one receiving a 40-year sentence and the other 25 years. The magistrate, in passing sentence,

said, "South Africa is involved in a wave of spiralling crime with terror in the hearts of the community...robbery of this nature is prevalent with women becoming soft targets."⁹ He said the men should be removed from society as they have no respect for humanity.

This shocking criminal act shows the blatant disregard for human life, the sheer callousness of men involved in South Africa's crime wave – the highest in the world. Every time a woman or girl goes out, her husband or father knows the risk she is taking. There is a complete breakdown of morality, and of law and order, in South African society. Constantly the liberals and the psychologists and the naive tell us that this is somehow a "legacy of apartheid." What utter nonsense. It has nothing to do with apartheid, many of the thugs roaming the streets were nothing more than babies when apartheid was in force. Some were not even born. The root cause is the sinful heart of men outside of Christ and ignorant of the Gospel. And the present Marxist-dominated ANC government, which before coming to power was a brutal terrorist organisation, knows nothing of real moral standards of even just plain decency. With ex-terrorists in the highest positions of government itself, is it any wonder that violence abounds on the streets?

Black Mob Accuses Child of Being a Vampire, Bays for Blood

In Edendale, Pietermaritzburg, Zulu residents threatened a 12-year-old boy with death, accusing him of being a vampire. Police and community leaders had to rescue him from what would have been horrifying mob justice.

A story had appeared in an Edendale newspaper alleging that a 12-year-old girl from the Eastern Cape province had been accused of vampirism and of eating human flesh. And for some reason, when local residents read the story, they descended on the home, not of the girl but of the boy – a boy who was visiting from the Western Cape province, not the Eastern Cape. The mob, numbering about 3000, demanded that the boy and his family return to the Eastern Cape, even though they were not from there. How exactly a story of an alleged girl vampire from one province came to be associated with a boy from a different province is unknown. But it seems that to the mob baying for the boy's blood it made no difference. When the police arrived in several vehicles, the mob continued to insult the family, threatening to kill the boy and to burn the house down if they did not leave. The boy's sobbing mother tried to get answers from the few neighbours who were sympathetic to the family. She said, "All the time they were chanting, hurling insults. I prayed and begged them to spare my child's life. They would not have it that they are after a wrong person, and I don't know what they see in my child. Despite these allegations, no one could come forward and say their children have been victims of my child."¹⁰

The boy's aunt said, "This is ridiculous.... What's worse is that these people could not tell us who spoke to the journalist who wrote the misleading story. I want that journalist to know that she almost killed my sister's child, and she has left scars that will not be easily healed."

The boy was taken to a safe place by the police. When community leaders went to the newspaper and asked the reporter to reveal her source, it turned out to be the girl's own mother! When the mother was confronted, she said her child did not say she eats human flesh and drinks human blood. She said her daughter had told the journalist that she sometimes has bad dreams. In one of her dreams an old woman tells her to remove unborn babies from their mothers' wombs. The journalist, according to a local councillor, then spiced the story up.¹¹

This tragic incident is unfortunately not an isolated case. Throughout South Africa, indeed throughout Africa, black Africans regularly accuse other blacks of witchcraft or of dabbling in other such works of devilish darkness. Of course, witchcraft is rife throughout Africa, and shocking crimes are committed by witches, witchdoctors, and others who practice these dark arts. Witchcraft forms an integral part of the religious beliefs of multiplied millions of black Africans. But because it is so rife, and because witchdoctors often commit murder and mutilate bodies in order to obtain body parts for their rituals, it often happens that innocent

people are accused of witchcraft by frightened mobs who then mete out their own form of street “justice”. Such is the fear in which black Africans who believe in witchcraft live their lives.

And yet we are constantly told that all cultures are equal, that all religions are equally valid, that Christian missionaries should not “impose” their religion on others. There is nothing attractive about witchcraft, nothing commendable about a religious belief that so fills people with fear that they threaten to kill a child and burn a house down. And they weren’t even sure of their facts, they picked on a child of the opposite sex and from a different province – not that it would have been right even if they had the correct child. The only answer is for the true Gospel of Christ to be spread amongst the black nations and tribes of Africa, that they may learn of the One who came to destroy the works of the devil and to set His people free from fear, bondage, and sin.

Suspected Witchcraft Killer on the Loose

In a suburb of Verulam, near Durban, in August 2009, a body with missing organs and skin was found dumped in the bush, causing the residents to live in fear of a suspected *muthi* (magic potion) killer being on the loose.

A resident said he heard bloodcurdling screams and called the police, who failed to respond. He then contacted a private security company, and the mangled, mutilated body was discovered. The young black man had been sliced open from his chest to his abdomen, and his heart, lungs, genitals and the skin around his inner thighs and from his buttocks had been neatly cut out, which are favourite body parts to be used for witchcraft purposes. And what is even worse, it is believed the man was taken to this lonely spot and mutilated *while still alive*.¹² This is a quite common practice, as it is believed it makes the organs more potent for *muthi* purposes.

Frightened residents said a number of people had gone missing in the weeks prior to this, and they believed they were being killed for *muthi*. People had become too afraid to go out at night and children had been told not to walk home late from school.

This is the grim, gruesome reality in South Africa, even today: witchcraft is very much alive and well and being practiced by black Africans all over the country, as it is in many parts of Africa. When South Africa was governed by white Africans and the Gospel of Christ was proclaimed throughout the land, such demonic practices were greatly suppressed and those who practiced them did so in isolated areas and always with the fear of being caught and punished. But the African National Congress, even before it became the government in 1994, had openly sought the blessing of witchdoctors upon its leaders and made it clear that such men and women would be welcome in the new South Africa. Consequently there has been a huge upsurge in witchcraft in SA ever since, with ritual *muthi* murders becoming increasingly commonplace, even in urban residential areas. When men either have no true knowledge of God and the Gospel of Christ, or depart from even the intellectual knowledge of it which they had, they rapidly sink into all kinds of sins, including especially the abominations of false religion. Before white missionaries arrived in South Africa, witchcraft was an integral part of the religious systems of the black tribes. Today we are witnessing a reversion to such religious beliefs, and a consequent rise in ritual murders and in a black population that is again beginning to live in fear. For African religions are religions of fear, death, and mutilation. Satan holds his subjects in bondage. Only in the Lord Jesus Christ is there love, and joy, and peace.

Witchcraft Behind a Case of Shocking Cruelty to a Dog

In a witchcraft ritual carried out by *sangomas* (witchdoctors), a puppy was stabbed and buried up to its neck for three days in the residential suburb of Azalea, Pietermaritzburg, in early January. Two spears had been pushed through its hind legs and protruded above ground. Yet did any of the Zulu people living in that neighbourhood go to its rescue? No – the reason

being they were too afraid of being bewitched if they did so! All that some of them would dare do was to remove the earth above its head to allow it to breathe. And so there it stayed, howling for three days until someone called the SPCA, which rescued it.¹³

When the SPCA inspector removed the puppy from the ground, it was discovered that it had been buried with two dead chickens and numerous candles of various colours. Its legs had also been poked with needles. And the SPCA said that, far from being an isolated case, this was the third incident of a similar nature that they have dealt with in recent times.

Once again we see the grip of fear which belief in witchcraft has on black people in Africa. The residents of this suburb were so afraid of being bewitched themselves if they came to the dog's rescue that they just left it to howl for three days! And they tell us that all religions and cultures are equal? They tell us that people are happy with their own religions and don't need Christian missionaries to preach the Gospel to them? When we look at African traditional beliefs, we see such paralysing fear that people will not even come to the rescue of a poor puppy, suffering extreme pain. Compare this cruelty with what the Bible says: "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast" (Prov. 12:10). The brute beasts are not to be put on an equality with man, as is happening in much of the world today; but nor are they to be treated with cruelty. A righteous man will treat his animals with kindness, because they are God's creations and also because the Lord's grace has softened his own heart, making him show mercy and kindness even to dumb animals. The verse goes on to say, "but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel." Yes, even the most "tender" things they do are cruel.

A religious belief that prevents a man from even showing common tenderness and mercy to a suffering beast is from the very pit of hell. Even the Pharisees, merciless men that they were, showed more kindness than this; for Jesus said of them, "Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?" (Lk. 14:5). Yet this puppy, buried up to its head and having been stabbed, was left three days without anyone showing kindness to it!

Of course, other *sangomas* were adamant that such a ritual was not the way *they* performed their witchcraft. One of them said that in 30 years of working as a *sangoma* she had never seen such callous cruelty.¹⁴ She did concede that some rituals to supposedly cleanse oneself of "bad spirits" were carried out in a similar way, but never with dogs or with cruelty, and never in a residential area (as if *that* makes it right). And just how truthful was she being? After all, even though she had witnessed the entire incident as it had occurred right next to her house, notice that even she did not attempt to rescue the dog! She is a *sangoma* herself, and tells us that this was cruel, that dogs should not be used – and yet she was too afraid to help the dog! She clearly believed in the potency of the ritual then, despite her condemnation of it!

After the incident various *sangomas* spoke out against the ritual – but only permitted the use of their last names in doing so. Clearly they were afraid of reprisals. One, identified as MaNgcobo, said that the real ritual is called *ukulahla isilwane* (to rid oneself of evil spirits) and does not involve the use of animals. She said, "The person who is to undergo the ritual is taken to a mountain away from other people's homes and bathed in traditional medicine. Incisions are then made on all of the patient's body joints so they bleed and you remove their blood with a small river rock and rub powdered medication into the incisions."¹⁵ Then the blood and the waters mixed with medicine used to bathe the person are poured into a hole and the patient leaves without looking back, leaving the bad spirits behind him.

Another *sangoma* named Sifiso said what was done to the puppy was barbaric and demeaned the practice of "traditional healing." He said traditional medicine is used in the cleansing ceremony, and some use a chicken, but never a dog. So it is all right to be cruel to a chicken! How then is Sifiso's version of the ceremony any less barbaric? If he thinks that using a dog somehow "demeans" his so-called "healing" methods but that using a chicken doesn't, he is sadly mistaken.

What a religion of darkness! Truly, the difference between biblical Christianity and African

witchcraft is the difference between day and night. How wonderful the words of the Lord Jesus who has said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (Jn. 8:36).

Smoking Vulture Brains to Win the Lottery!

Yes, you read right. This one surely is a contender for one of the most bizarre aspects of black African religion. According to a vendor of *muthi* (traditional "medicine", often with supposedly magic powers) named Scelo, operating from downtown Johannesburg's market for *muthi*, smoking dried vulture brains enables one to have a vision of winning Lotto numbers! As a result, blacks are coming to him and other vendors to purchase the brains. And South Africa's vulture populations are dropping as a result! According to a study by two wildlife organisations, at least 160 vultures are sold annually for *muthi*.¹⁶

The decline in the number of vultures is of great concern to conservationists¹⁷ and should be of concern to all right-thinking people, because the birds are very necessary as the "cleaners" of the wild, performing an essential function in God's creation. But this does not give men such as Scelo any sleepless nights. No, what he worries about is losing business because of the scarcity of vultures. "Vultures are scarce," he laments. "I only have one every three or four months." Poor man. Our hearts go out to him for his loss. He added, "Everybody asks for the brain. You see things that people can't see. For Lotto, you dream the numbers." Well, we are sure people see and dream all kinds of things when they smoke Scelo's concoction, and it probably has very little to do with the vulture brains and a whole lot to do with the other things which he mixes into the stuff. But meanwhile vultures are being wiped out to supply the demand for their brains.

The vulture brains are rolled into a cigarette or inhaled as vapours. Scelo sells just a tiny bottle, containing no more than a speck of the ground vulture brains, for R50. But the whole vulture could sell for as much as R2000. Those who believe in it say that smoking the brains can also help one win when betting on the horse races, or help one do better when writing an exam, or even attract more clients to one's business. Such is the widespread belief in the power of *muthi* among black Africans that men like Scelo sell all kinds of animal products, usually illegally obtained: such things as ostrich feet, snake skins, even donkey fat which is used to supposedly drive away evil spirits. According to an *nyanga* (traditional "healer"), vulture bones or feathers are mixed with herbs to make medicines. He said, "We make the brain dry and mix it with mud, and you smoke it like a cigarette or a stick. Then the vision comes."¹⁸ Oh, I'm sure it does.

He said that vulture heads are what he prescribes the most, because they bring visions of the future, those who make use of the concoction being endowed with the vulture's excellent vision. This belief is not unique to South Africa, but is shared by blacks living along the east coast of Africa and in some west African countries as well.

"Use of vulture parts is an important component of traditional medicine in southern Africa and evidence suggests that traditional use is partly responsible for vulture populations' *rapid decline*," according to a newsletter published by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in South Africa. "The trade in animal parts is *secretive and mostly illegal* in South Africa.... Vultures are used in traditional medicine for a range of purposes, but are believed to be most effective for providing clairvoyant powers, foresight and increased intelligence.... About 130 000 traders, hunters and traditional healers are operating in South Africa, of which 1251 benefit financially from vulture trade."¹⁹ If smoking the brains really increased intelligence, they would not be stupidly wiping out the vulture population of the country. If it really gave one foresight, they would have the foresight to see what they are doing.

The health of those who smoke the brains is in fact in great danger, as the newsletter points out: "There is a potential impact on human health when using vultures sold by traders. Almost all vultures have been poisoned using Temik (Aldicarb). (The use of Temik is illegal due to its indiscriminate killing of all animals that feed on the poisoned carcass). Two (2) pea sized granules of Temik can kill an adult man. It does not break down and if someone inhales or

ingests part of an animal which has been poisoned with Temik, they face severe health risks which include foetal deformation in pregnant women, various chronic ailments and possibly death.”

Police Station Robbed of Its Firearms!

It would be hilarious if it wasn't so serious and dangerous. A chronically under-staffed police station in KwaZulu-Natal province was robbed of seven firearms when an armed gang held up the only officer on duty. This just shows how criminals hold the SA Police in utter contempt and have no fear of them.

According to a high-ranking officer in the precinct, who did not want to be named, the station was crippled by staff shortages, and although the provincial office had been informed of the situation many times, nothing had been done. “There used to be three people per shift, but that number has dramatically decreased as we have been struggling with vacancies since 2005. On the day of the incident, there were supposed to have been two officers on duty. However, the other was on stand-by because he was not feeling well.” Frankly, one doubts whether two officers instead of one would have made much difference to the armed criminals.

The once-mighty and excellent SA Police (in the days before the ANC came to power) has been reduced to a shadow of its former self, riddled with corruption, under-staffed, under-trained, and lacking much essential equipment. There are many good and hard-working members of the police force, who do the very best they can within their limited means; but they are fighting an uphill battle. If criminals have such little fear or respect for the police that they can traipse into a police station, hold up a police officer and steal whatever they like, then this gives a very good indication of the fact that the general public are nothing more than sitting ducks.

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ENDNOTES:

1. *The Sunday Tribune*, September 6, 2009.
2. See *Religious Freedom No Longer Exists in South Africa!* by Shaun Willcock. Bible Based Ministries, 2004. www.biblebasedministries.co.uk.
3. *The Mercury*, September 10, 2009.
4. See, for example, *How the Revolutionaries Use Children*, by Helene Roux. Lone Tree Publications, Halfway House, South Africa, 1988.
5. *The Witness*, October 22, 2009.
6. *The Witness*, October 22, 2009.
7. *The Witness*, January 29, 2010.
8. *The Post*, November 18 to 22, 2009.
9. *Weekend Witness*, November 21, 2009.
10. *The Witness*, January 19, 2010.
11. *The Witness*, January 20, 2010.
12. *Weekend Witness*, August 8, 2009.
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