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AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



**POPI QWABE & BONGEKA PHUNGULA,
SOUTH AFRICA**

**THEIR KILLERS
MUST BE
BROUGHT
TO JUSTICE**

POPI QWABE & BONGEKA PHUNGULA, SOUTH AFRICA

It was a Friday night in May 2017 and like many 20-somethings, Popi Qwabe and Bongeka Phungula were heading for a night out. The friends had met while studying drama in Durban, KwaZulu Natal. Both were talented young women, chasing a dream to make it big as actors.

At some point that evening, the pair hailed a minibus taxi. They were not heard from again.

Following a frantic search at hospitals and police stations, Bongeka's cousin Mdu and Popi's sister Thembelihle discovered the terrible truth. Popi and Bongeka had been shot dead and dumped by the side of a road. They may also have been raped.

According to the families, the police failed to properly investigate the murders. A taxi containing the women's bloodstains and belongings was found. While the blood was apparently analysed, the forensic department never released the results. The families say the police did not check for fingerprints and that the phones belonging to the two girls were never traced.



Two taxi operators were arrested. They had some of the women's belongings, including a cellphone and lipstick, which they claimed they found in the taxi. But the police released the men citing lack of evidence and the case was withdrawn pending further investigation.

In the three years since the murder, no thorough investigation has taken place.

Demand justice for Popi and Bongeka.

WRITE TO THE MINISTER OF POLICE

Demand a thorough, fair and impartial investigation into the deaths of Popi and Bongeka.

Minister of Police

Private Bag X463

Pretoria, 0001

South Africa

Email: PhokaneN@saps.gov.za

Twitter: @SAPoliceService /

Salutation: Dear Minister Bheki Cele, Gen.

SHOW POPI AND BONGEKA'S FAMILIES THE WORLD IS WITH THEM

Send them messages of solidarity and hope to help them keep strong in their battle for justice.

Amnesty International South Africa

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