



Poaching suspect Kandjii a no-show

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The rhino-poaching court case of former Brave Warriors team doctor Gerson Kandjii and four other accused was postponed to 23 September after he and co-accused Stephanus David failed to turn up at the Okahao Magistrate's Court on Friday.

The other three accused suspects - Karunga Martin, Hinu lucky and Daniel Nghidinwa - appeared before Magistrate Peingeondjabi Shipoh and were ordered to return on the new set date for their trial.

The five are charged with illegal hunting of specially protected game, possession of a firearm without a licence and unlawful possession of ammunition.

The court issued warrants of arrest for Kandjii and David. They must be before court on 12 August to explain why they failed to appear on Friday, with the possibility of forfeiting their bail to the state.

The suspects were arrested in November 2014 and were charged with the poaching of critically endangered black rhinos in Etosha National Park.

Kandjii was granted bail of N\$20 000 in early January 2015 and according to media reports that was before a ballistics test linked his hunting rifle to the Etosha poaching.

The four other accused have also been out on bail.

In other news, on 23 July, after a tip-off from a community member, the Namibian Police anti-poaching unit in Etosha arrested two men, aged 32 and 40, who were found in possession of unlicensed firearms around the area of Onamatanga.

It has not been confirmed whether they can be linked to previous poaching incidents in the park, but one of the suspects is linked to an elephant poaching case outside Etosha that took place during May this year.

Rhino poaching has become a crisis in Namibia. According to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, 80 rhinos were killed last year and by March this year seven rhinos and six elephants had been poached.



(<https://d3rp5jatom3eyn.cloudfront.net/asset/suspect-kandjii-a-no-show2016-08-010.jpg>)

NO-SHOW: Alleged poacher Gerson Kandjii.

Photo: NAMPA

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