

28 August 2020 | [Police & court](#)

## Suspected poachers remain in custody for the time being



Photo for illustration: Nampa archive

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Windhoek / Otjiwarongo (Nampa / cev) - Four suspected rhinoceros poachers who were arrested in Grootfontein last week are currently in custody. The suspects, Dave Uatenguainja Ngumbi (35), Alfred Rukee Katupao (49), Lucas Hidinwa Kautpao (38) and Hengua Kaipi Ngange (40), appeared in the Otjiwarongo Magistrate Court earlier this week. At the time of detention, the case was adjourned to November 24 this year for further investigation.

The four defendants are charged with organized crime and violations of the nature conservation law, including illegal hunting of specially protected wild animals and illegal trade in rhinoceros horns. The authorities put the value of a rhinoceros at one million Namibian dollars. The accused

were informed about their rights on Monday and informed that they were entitled to a private or state-funded lawyer. But they are said to have declared that they want to defend themselves.

According to the Ministry of the Environment, Ngumbi and Kaipi were arrested on Wednesday last week, the other two suspects on Friday night. In addition, a vehicle was secured. The accused are associated with a poached and dehorned rhinoceros bull and a wounded female. The two cases are said to have occurred between the end of July and mid-August on a private game farm in the Grootfontein district. As the police spokeswoman for the Otjozondjupa region, Inspector Maureen Mbeha, announced, an investigation had led to the suspects (AZ reported).

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