

# Republikein

*Jou land. Jou taal. Jou koerant.*

Suspected poachers attack NCPF members  
Kalkfelders wants to petition in court

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Members of the Nossob Crime Prevention Forum (NCPF) were in mortal danger this past Thursday morning after they chased a vehicle, with suspected stolen venison in it.

They recognized the car as the property of a "well-known suspect" in Witvlei.

The car crashed into rocks in Witvlei's new informal settlement, after which two occupants jumped out and ran away. However, the third suspect whistled and shouted, after which about ten people showed up and threw stones at the forum members and threatened and beat them with pangas until they had to flee back to their vehicle.

"Our lives were in danger!" said one of the NCPF members to Republican, who wishes to remain anonymous for the time being. He says on the back seat of the suspect vehicle was the cut-up carcass of a gemsbok.

"It was packed on top of a sheet, which is done so that any evidence such as blood can be removed more easily.

"The people then carried the carcass into the bushes. They still tried to drive the vehicle away but could not succeed. It probably did too much damage," he said.

The NCPF members say they contacted the police, but the police response time was very slow and so they did not find anything outside the vehicle at the scene.

"I was later cursed and threatened by the same suspect at his house. "He told me he would make another plan to get me," one NCPF member told Republikein, who filed a case with the police against the suspect the same day.

The suspect's name can also not be disclosed until he has appeared in court.

#### REACTION

The NCPF's whole patrol followed after responding to a farmer's call for help whose workers heard dogs barking on his farm. The farmer sat along the B6 tarmac to watch for any suspicious cars or movements.

The farmer then noticed a car at one of his cattle posts against the road, which turned around and was speeding in the direction of Witvlei.

The NCPF says this is not the first time that the specific suspect has raised such threats against members of the forum.

"This man is known as one of two prominent suspects in Witvlei. They rule the settlement and the police are either powerless or they do nothing.

"The suspicion exists that he is also connected to other crimes.

"The situation is worrying and it is getting worse. This follows after another security company also had a close escape with the person in 2019, during which its employees attacked members of this company," it was said.

"Absolutely nothing is being done against the person and nothing has come of this 2019 case.

"We are just trying to do our job," he said.

#### PROTESTS IN OTJIWARONGO

Meanwhile, members of the Kalkfeld Farmers' Association will appear in the Otjiwarongo Magistrate's Court this morning with a petition to try to prevent four suspected poachers who were caught last weekend from being released on bail.

This follows after stock theft and poaching cost farmers of the area between January and November this year more than N \$ 1.3 million.

Members of the farmers' association managed to catch four suspected poachers on Sunday 5 December while driving in what was suspected to be stolen meat in their private vehicle.

An online petition was drawn up last week to prevent them from being granted bail.

"Poaching and stock theft is a growing crime, in which all farmers of our beloved country are plagued.

"Drastic and immediate action is needed against all forms of poaching and stock theft - as well as against those who transport and sell the stolen meat," reads the online petition. - [elvira@republikein.com.na](mailto:elvira@republikein.com.na)