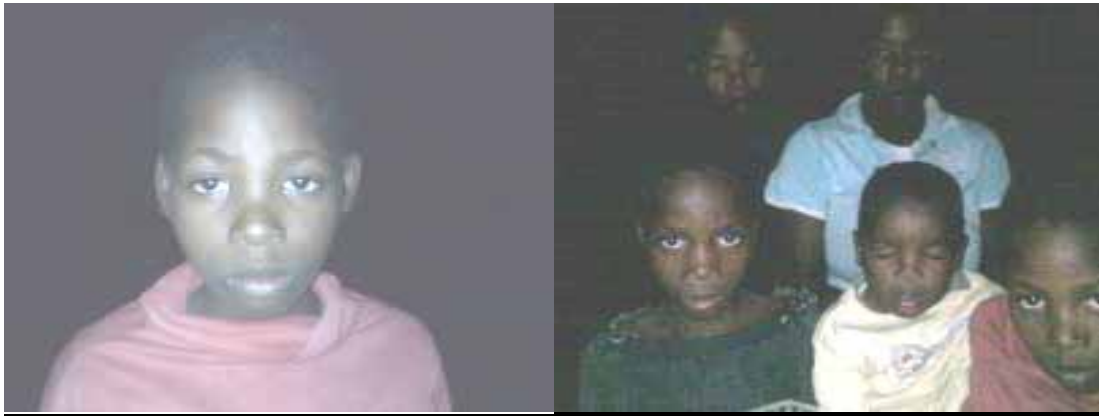


**PUBLIC PROTEST TO DEMAND JUSTICE TO BE DONE AND TO BE SEEN**

**DATE: February 9-10, 2011**

**VENUE: eMpangeni Regional Court**

**TIME: 09h00am – 16h00**



**Mr. Mpanza's children who are now without a father**

On the evening of July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 Mr. Patrick Mpanza was shot dead by the farm watch guards on his way to work a night shift in another farm in the area. This incident happened while he was walking with his four kids, whom are all girls. According to one of his children the farm watch-guards told them to lie down on the ground, two of the four kids ran away while the other ones were left with the father. The father refused to lie down. When he refused to lie on the ground one of the farm watch-guards shot him on the chest and then he fell on the ground.

One of his children asked if he was hurt, and the father replied by saying "yes I am hurt". The child asked "where are you hurt?" Then there was no response from Mpanza but heavy breathing and then silence. Mr. Mpanza passed away. Two of the four kids were later captured by farm watch-guards taken to their watch house and held there until the South African police Service (SAPS) came and found them there.

This is just one of many cases whereby either the farm owner or his farm watch-guards would kill or even torture the farm dwellers or persons from the neighbouring communities and get away with crime or if they do get arrested somehow manage to manipulate the justice system in their favour. There are some other cases that are similar to this incident whereby the very same farm watch company's guards shot and killed.

These cases include the case of two school learners who were shot dead for allegedly eating sugarcane on June 17, 2006. The two learners were from another village (Masangweni village) not far from the late Mpanza's village. It took four years of undaunted public protests staged outside the eShowe Regional Court and online petition signed by hundreds of people from around the world to force the justice system to put suspects on trial. John Minto, a veteran anti-apartheid activist wrote on the online petition:

*The killing of these children demands justice. The sort of "justice" faced by the community is similar to the "justice" suffered by the people under apartheid. It also mirrors the lack of economic justice by which a tiny elite benefit while the majority suffer. Kia kaha, Kia toa, Kia manawanui(Be strong, Be brave, Be steadfast)*

**May 25, 2010 John Minto, New Zealand**

It was not until June 2010 that the trial began. Finally, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the two suspects (farm watch-guards) were finally found guilty and each sentenced to 20 years in prison. However, this particular case shows that the justice system in South Africa is biased against the poor. Although during the four and half years of public protests outside eShowe Regional Court numerous petitions were written and sent to the government officials including ministers, provincial head of prosecutors and national prosecuting authority but there was hardly any positive response except acknowledgements.

It is therefore, for this biasness of the justice system in favour of the powerful rich elite (those who count) that the Ntsheluntshelu village community (those who don't count) will be staging public protest outside Mpangeni Regional Court on **February 9 - 10, 2011** in order to put pressure on the justice system to deliver justice. People want to see justice being done and seen.

**For more information please contact Mr. Zakhele Mpanza (072 020 1194) or Mr. Mdu Sibisi (073 387 9265)**