



EFF STATEMENT ON THE SENTENCING OF CHILD RAPE SYNDICATE KINGPIN, GERHARD ACKERMAN

Tuesday, 15 August 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) welcomes the sentencing of the child rape syndicate kingpin, Gerhard Ackerman, to 12 life terms at the Gauteng High Court this week. Earlier this year Ackerman was found guilty of over 700 charges.

Ackerman was charged alongside his associate Acting High Court Judge and Senior Counsel for the State Capture Commission, Paul Kennedy. Kennedy, however, died under suspicious circumstances in February 2022, shortly before the scheduled trial.

Their crimes are linked to the covert syndicate that included child pornography and possession of child pornography, rape and statutory rape, sexual grooming and exploitation of children, and human trafficking for the purpose of sex trade.

Kennedy, who rendered legal services to the State Capture Commission, had been apprehended and granted bail alongside Ackerman. Notably, the Commission's Chairperson, Justice Raymond Zondo, persistently employed the services of this charged serial child rapist. Essentially, Zondo sanctioned child rape and utilised state funds to enable Kennedy's crimes against children.

Subsequently, Cyril Ramaphosa appointed Justice Zondo as Chief Justice demonstrating his total disregard for the calibre of Justices required. He also appointed Zondo, a serial child rapist enabler, against the recommendation of the Judiciary Service Commission (JSC).

Further, the appointment was a regression on gender transformation in the judiciary as the JSC had recommended a woman, Justice Mandisa Maya for the position of Chief Justice.

This begs the question of whether Kennedy was deliberately silenced because he would reveal more about the syndicate that would implicate powerful people. Additionally, it highlights the necessity to obtain the client list from Ackerman and the prosecute all those involved.

The EFF also reiterates our position that bail must not be granted for schedule 6 crimes. Despite a 16-year history of predatory behavior against minors, Ackerman was repeatedly given bail that allowed him to freely continue his heinous crimes against children unabated.

The corrupt DNA of the ANC government has turned our country into a playground for criminal syndicates. It's these types of criminal syndicates that generate currencies that cannot be declared to authorities, hence the stashing of these illegal currencies in mattresses and sofas.

While this sentencing is welcomed, the victims and survivors of Kennedy, Ackerman and their client list would have been drastically minimised if the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) had operated effectively and efficiently.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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