



**Media Statement:  
Anniversary of Senzo Meyiwa's murder falls within International  
Disarmament Week: Take action to stop gun violence**

**In the 12 months since Senzo Meyiwa was shot dead, 6,500 other South Africans have been shot and killed, the majority of whom are young men like Meyiwa; yet no concrete steps have been taken to prevent gun violence despite unprecedented calls for government action.**

*26 October 2015:* As the world marks International Disarmament Week (24-30 October), South Africa marks the one year anniversary of Senzo Meyiwa's death by gunshot. While 18 people die from gun-related violence every day in South Africa, Meyiwa's murder put a face, a name, a story to these daily firearm deaths.

The months following Meyiwa's murder saw unprecedented calls from the public for government action to stop gun violence; the South African Football Association called for a national firearms amnesty and the ruling party called for a review of "existing gun control measures with a view to limiting access to guns that end [up] in the wrong hands"<sup>1</sup>.

Yet in the 12 months after Meyiwa's death – in which time 6,500 other South Africans have been shot and killed, the majority of whom are young men like Meyiwa – no concrete action has been taken to prevent gun violence.

While an amendment to the Firearms Control Act (2000) was published for comment in 2015 – which included a number of important provisions aimed at preventing legal guns leaking into the illegal pool; the amendment process has been delayed.

Gun violence can be prevented. Evidence<sup>2</sup> shows that limiting access to firearms can prevent homicides, suicides and injuries, and that countries with restrictive firearms law and lower firearm ownership levels tend to have lower levels of gun violence.

Gun Free South Africa urges government action to stop gun-related deaths; this would include amending the Firearms Control Act (2000); declaring a national firearms amnesty, committing to the enforcement of gun control legislation, and improving security of state owned firearms.

**18 people are shot and killed every day in South Africa.  
Gun Free South Africa is working towards a safer,  
more secure South Africa, by reducing gun violence.**

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<sup>1</sup> Kodwa, Zizi. ANC spokesperson addressing journalists in parliament, 30 October 2014.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization. 2009. *Guns, knives, and pesticides: reducing access to lethal means*. WHO. Geneva.