



STATEMENT

GFSA response to latest crime statistics

Deeply concerned by significant increase in gun-related crime, and lack of attention by state to address gun violence epidemic

31 May 2023

SAPS presented the 4th quarter (January to March) 2022-23 national crime stats to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Police. In addition to comparing crimes for this time period over a number of years, the latest figures also allow us to compare annual crime stats for 2022-23 with previous years.

GFSA was present during the presentation and deliberation by parliament and is deeply concerned by the lack of engagement on what will be done to address gun-related crime ins SA.

As shown in the table below: **Gun-related crime has significantly increased e.g. gun-related murders have increased a staggering 35% from 23 people shot and killed a day in 2021-22 to 31 people a day in 2022-2023.**

In particular GFSA has three questions for government:

1. Most gun crime is committed with illegal guns. **What is being done to recover and destroy illegal guns and ammunition?** GFSA has repeatedly called for specialised firearms units to be established to undertake the task of recovery and destruction as ordinary SAPS members don't have the skills and capacity to undertake this task.
2. Most if not all illegal guns in SA were once legally held before falling into criminal hands. This requires tightening controls over legal guns to stop them leaking into criminal hands. Record keeping, which is managed by the Central Firearms Registry, is a cornerstone of gun control – and allows the state to know who owns what gun at any time. After years and years of corruption, incompetence and failed attempts at turnaround strategies, **on 3 May 2023 the National Police Commissioner Fannie Masemola told Parliament that the State Information Technology Agency awarded a contract in relation to the Central Firearms Registry on 5 April 2023. What is the contract for? Who was awarded the contract? And what does the contract require of the service provider?**
3. In 2021 the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service published a draft amendment to the Firearms Control Act to align South Africa's national gun law with various constitutional and statutory requirements, **when will the Firearms Control Amendment Bill be tabled?**

Summary of gun-related crime stats for latest quarter and past year		
	Q4 crime stats (January-March 2023)	Annual crime stats (April 2022 to March 2023)
Violent contact crime	Almost all violent crime (including murder, attempted murder and robbery with aggravating circumstances) increased (the exception is sexual offences, which declined)	All violent crime increased over the past year, e.g. murder increased 8% from 2022
Murder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,289 people murdered • This is an average of 70 people per day (over 90 days). In Q4 of 2022 the average was 68 a day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27,272 people murdered • This is an average of 75 people per day (over 365 days); last year the average was 69 a day
Murder weapon	<p>Guns overwhelming used to murder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,629 people shot dead • This is an average of 29 people a day (over 90 days) <p>Knives used in 919 murders (average of 10 people a day)</p>	<p>Guns overwhelmingly used to murder, with the number of people shot and killed increasing by 35% in the past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11,347 people shot dead • This is an average of 31 people a day (over 365 days); in 2022 SAPS reported that 8,388^[1] people were shot dead (an average of 23 a day) <p>Knives used in 4,047 murders (average of 11 murders a day)</p>

31 people are shot and killed every day in South Africa
Gun Free South Africa is helping build a safer country by reducing gun violence

^[1] Figure reported in Parliamentary Question, RNW1637-2021-06-25.