



MEDIA STATEMENT:

Stop tinkering on the margins: Arrest the crooked cops involved in gun-licensing fraud and conduct a forensic audit on the Central Firearms Registry (CFR)

Lt-Col Charl Kinnear was shot and killed outside his home on 18 September; reports have linked his assassination to a nationwide guns to gangs syndicate involving corrupt police members in the CFR.

29 September 2020: "For the past 10 years the police and the Minister have kicked the fraud and corruption can in the firearms control system down the road. The murder of Charl Kinnear has to be the line in the sand, when we as a country say enough is enough," says Adèle Kirsten, Gun Free's SA's Director.

Gun Free SA calls on the Presidency to urgently put in place the mechanism to conduct an independent forensic audit of all firearm licences, permits and authorisations issued by the CFR over the last five years (from January 2015). This would investigate who was issued with which licence for what purpose. It must also include a systematic review of the entire firearms control system to identify both operational and policy gaps to stop rampant and deadly corruption spanning over a decade (see table below for a summary of high profile cases). The office of the Auditor-General would be best placed to undertake this audit and review.

Kirsten, further adds, "corruption in the national firearms control management system is not limited to an isolated incident here and there. It is systemic, widespread, deeply entrenched and deadly."

With more and more guns available across the country, gun violence has steadily increased. In 2018 guns replaced knives to become the leading cause of murder in SA, while in Gauteng firearms have replaced motor vehicles as the leading cause of non-natural death.

Over the years there have been various attempts to address corruption and inefficiencies in SA's firearms control management system. In 2010 a Task Team was appointed to turn the CFR around. In 2013 the Minister of Police established a two-person Committee of Inquiry to investigate allegations of fraud and corruption in the firearms control management system, although the Committee's final report was submitted to the Minister of Police it has never been made public. In 2014 SAPS presented another CFR turnaround strategy to Parliament, which was reviewed by the Police Portfolio Committee in 2015 and again in 2016, with numerous oversight visits by the MPs; yet still no results.

"None of these interventions has been successful. Fraud and corruption continue to thrive, and people continue to die," says Kirsten.

The investigation into the murder of one of SA's finest police officers must be prioritised and the killers brought to justice; and his murder marked as the point at which real and substantial action is taken to end fraud and corruption in the firearms control management system.

SUMMARY OF HIGH PROFILE GUN-RELATED FRAUD AND CORRUPTION CASES

<p>Police station (includes Designated Firearms Officers)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guns handed in during 2010 amnesty found in arms cache In 2014 police recovered an arms cache that included R1, R4, R5 and AK-47 rifles and approximately 300 handguns in a raid on a Johannesburg home. Court proceedings revealed that some of the guns in the cache had been handed in to the police for destruction during the 2010 national firearms amnesty before being stolen and sold to criminals, allegedly by corrupt police officials. • Designated Firearms Officer sentenced to 13 years for fraud and corruption Lawrence Mamogobo, based at Pretoria Central police station, was sentenced to 13 years in mid-2015 after being convicted on 30 counts of corruption involving fraudulently selling falsified firearms training certificates, competency certificates and licences. He was one of 20 people that included two brigadiers, two colonels and 12 clerks who were suspended by SAPS management when allegations of corruption in the issuing of firearms licences at the CFR first emerged in 2013. • 33 guns ‘disappear’ from two Western Cape police stations Fifteen 9mm firearms were reported missing from the Mitchells Plain police station on 25 August 2017, five days later, 18 firearms were unaccounted for in the Bellville South police station – Bellville South is known as a stronghold of the Sexy Boys gang. • Senior police officer sells guns in police stores to gang leaders The most high profile and documented case of fraud and corruption involves Christiaan Prinsloo, a senior police officer who is serving 18 years for stealing and selling 2,000+ guns in police stores to gang leaders on the Cape Flats.
<p>Central Firearms Registry (CFR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFR’s most senior police officer fired for fraud and corruption Brigadier Mangwani, Section Head of the CFR was suspended with immediate effect and later dismissed for bribery and corruption related to firearms licensing. • CFR police officers arrested for selling fraudulent licences to gang leaders Three CFR officers were charged with issuing fraudulent gun licences, including to 28s gang kingpin Ralph Stanfield, his wife and sister. While charges against the three were dropped in October 2016, they have since been reinstated. • Alleged underworld figure Nafiz Modack arrested with 10 former and current SAPS officers Eight high-ranking police officers, two former officers and underworld figures and gun dealers were arrested on 16 June 2020 and appeared in the Kempton Park Magistrate’s Court on Wednesday 17 June on gun-related fraud and corruption charges.
<p>Accredited firearms training institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police close illegal KZN training academy A 2015 joint SAPS operation swooped on a Richards Bay firearms training academy which had been running illegally since 2009, making all firearms certificates issued by the academy invalid. • Journalist buys fake gun proficiency certificate The secretary of the South African Professional Firearm Trainers Council (which, on 6 March 2015, was appointed by the SAPS as the national body responsible for ensuring the quality of firearms proficiency certification) was caught on camera selling a proficiency certificate to a journalist without her having received any training.
<p>Accredited firearms dealers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawks investigate one of South Africa’s biggest gun dealers In 2013 Dave Sheer Guns was identified by the Hawks as being at the centre of a large-scale corruption racket involving bribery and creating fraudulent permits to export weapons and ammunition to conflict countries including Sudan and Syria. An employee

	<p>claimed that she paid bribes to police officers and lied to clients as part of her job as a sales manager. To date, there have been no arrests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gun dealer accused of helping to sell stolen guns to gang leaders Alan Raves, a Vereeniging-based gun dealer, is currently standing trial as an accomplice to Christiaan Prinsloo, the ex-police colonel sentenced to 18 years for selling guns earmarked for destruction in police stores to gang leaders in the Western Cape.• Unlicensed guns recovered from gun dealer 323 unlicensed guns were recovered from a firearms dealership in Pretoria during a raid by the Hawks national bureau for illegal firearms control and priority violent crime. Moreover, while the dealership had various firearms registered in its name on the enhanced firearms registration system these could not be accounted for.• Unlicensed guns recovered from gun dealer 323 unlicensed guns were recovered from a firearms dealership in Pretoria during a raid by the Hawks national bureau for illegal firearms control and priority violent crime. Moreover, while the dealership had various firearms registered in its name on the enhanced firearms registration system these could not be accounted for.• Owners of gun dealership arrested In June 2020, Abdullah Mehtar and Mahomed Riaz Moosa, who both own Acapulco Sports and Guns Owner in Kempton Park, were arrested along with underworld figure Nafiz Modack and 10 former and current SAPS officers for firearm-related fraud and corruption.
--	---

Ends