

# GOUGER GETS 10 MORE YEARS

## You are evil and perverted, judge tells smiling serial killer

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**T**he Olievenhoutbosch serial killer who has dubbed himself a "man of God", was all smiles when sentenced to life sentences 16 times, plus an additional 140 years imprisonment for the crimes he committed.

Not even Pretoria high court Judge John Murphy's recommendation that Richard Nyauza remain behind bars for the rest of his natural life could dampen the 36-year-old killer's good spirits.

Clasping a packet of cigarettes in his cuffed hands, Nyauza told reporters that "this does not change anything" as he was led down to start his new life behind bars.

A happy looking Nyauza shook the hand of police serial killer expert Dr Gerard Labuschagne several times after he had heard his fate. Ironically Labuschagne's evidence was the final nail in Nyauza's coffin.

The court relied heavily on Labuschagne's evidence to convict the Olievenhoutbosch resident on all 16 murder charges he faced.

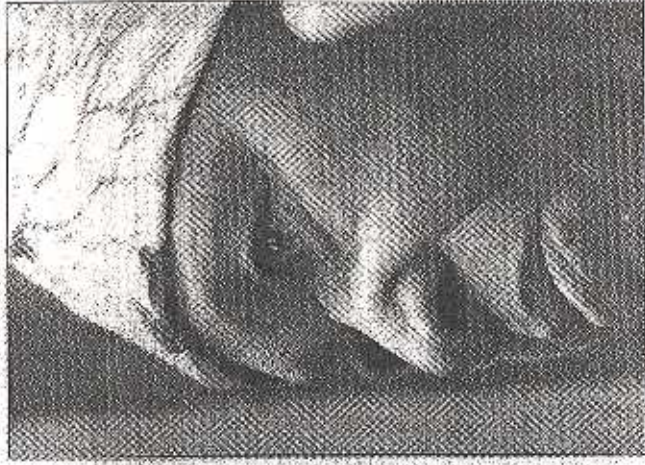
This was in spite of no direct evidence linking him to eight of the murders.

But the court accepted Labuschagne's explanation on how serial killers went about killing people.

It also accepted that the same person had killed each of the 16 women forming the subject of this case. Labuschagne said there was a clear link between all the killings.



□ Bongqi Mabaso, a relative of one of the victims, with a friend outside the Pretoria high court shortly after sentence was passed. Right: The mother of one of the victims, Belina Mabaso, contemplates the killer's sentence.



PICTURES: HERBERT MATIMBA

The judge called Nyauza an evil and perverted serial killer. "Whatever your personal circumstances, there is only one sentence which can be imposed, and that is life. You are evil and perverted. Given the serial nature of the crimes the court must impose a sentence which will permanently remove you from society.

"You pose a danger to society and to women in particular," Murphy told him. Arguing for life behind bars, prosecutor JP Marais said Nyauza was in his opinion a psychopath. He referred to Nyauza breaking into fits of laughter in the dock when one of his victims said she wished she could kill him. "He is probably one of the worst criminals I have come across in my life," Marais said.

Nyauza maintained until the end that he was innocent and a "man of the cloth". Taking the witness stand shortly before sentencing, he said he was a member of the ZCC and that he wore his badge at all times.

"This must surely prove to you that I could not have done what I am accused of. I am a man of God." He said it did not matter what he tried to say in mitigation of sentence as the judge had already made up his mind.

Marais told Nyauza that his (Marais') Bible stated that one should not kill and rape. Nyauza replied: "Exactly. I agree with you. The Bible also said you must not prejudge."

But there was no doubt in the court's mind that Nyauza was the man who in 2002 killed five women. He dumped them all a stone's throw from his home in Driepsloot. None of these women was ever identified. They were all displayed in bizarre sexual positions, some naked and others without their panties on. The cause of death in most cases was blunt force.

Police at the time realised it was the work of a serial killer: but the killings stopped in 2002. The next series of killings occurred in 2006. The pattern was the same as three years before. The bodies were also found in the same vicinity. But this time they were mostly strangled.

Nyauza was in jail between 2002 and only released at the end of 2005 for rape - a charge on which he was acquitted.

The judge yesterday said Nyauza was arrogant and evasive in the witness stand. He also described him as being deceitful and said his evidence went beyond the realm of reasonable belief.

## Closure only for 4 families

Only four of the 16 victims of serial killer Richard Nyauza could be identified.

The other 12 had gone to their graves without their family members knowing what had happened to them.

But the families of Elizabeth Mabaso and Rosina Moswana were some of the lucky ones - they could at least get closure on what happened to their loved ones.

Both women last year went to Olievenhoutbosh to sell their wares.

They were accosted by Nyauza, who offered them jobs. The women were never seen again.

Anna Moswana, mother of Rosina, can barely understand English, but she was determined to find out who had killed her daughter. The tiny woman sat alone in

court for the past week and her only comment yesterday was that she was happy the killer was behind bars, because he could not hurt anyone else again.

Moswana said she would not forgive Nyauza.

Mabaso's family were also at court - including her beautiful young daughter Bongani Mabaso and her mother Belina.

Belina cried bitterly throughout yesterday's judgment. "I am glad he received a life sentence. But my daughter is dead and he is alive. He will get fat in jail, but I will have to continue without my daughter," she said.

Bongani said that at first she was angry when she saw the killer laughing in court, but now she just wished he was also dead. - Zelda Venter

The uniqueness of Richard Nyauza's behaviour and the circumstances accompanying the 16 killings are indicative of being the work of only one person: the 36-year-old Olievenhoutbosh resident, the Pretoria high court heard.

A world expert on serial killers and top cop in this field, Dr Gerard Labuschagne, said serial murderers did not stop until apprehended and they continued killing in spite of police activity. In this case the killings only stopped after Nyauza was eventually apprehended in August last year.

The first batch of killings (in 2002) only stopped when he went to jail in an unrelated case.

Serial murderers also tend to stick to one main method of killing their victims. In this case it was blunt force trauma during the 2002

killings, and mostly strangulation in the 2006 killings.

Labuschagne said serial killers preferred strangulation, as it gave them control over the death of their victims. It also gave them a feeling of power.

He also said they tended to choose a certain type of victim. This was usually because the category of victims had offended him in the past.

In this case it was adult black women, because he had contracted the HIV/AIDS virus from one of them.

They also had a so-called "comfort zone" - a geographical area in which all the killings occurred. This is chosen because of an association the killer has with the area.

In this case Nyauza lived 2.6km from where he killed his victims.

## They don't stop until they're caught

Labuschagne said serial killings often had a sexual theme, which was not necessarily rape. Nyauza left his victims in sexual positions after killing them and in most cases they were either found naked or semi-naked, with their underwear displayed near them.

Judge John Murphy relied heavily on the profiling of a serial killer in convicting Nyauza of all 16 murders. But there was also the undisputed evidence of his semen found in several of the women and the fact that he had two of the victims' cellphones with him when he was arrested.

At the end of the trial, Murphy made special mention of the outstanding work the police had done in the case. He said Labuschagne and his team's work was of world standard. - Zelda Venter