



EQT

STOP

MY BODY, MY CHOICE

FEMICIDE
RAPE
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



**SOUTH AFRICA
RAPE AND
VIOLENCE
IN THE PLATINUM
MINING BELT**

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parallelozero



THE OPEN-AIR PLATINUM MINE OF MOTHLABÉ,
WHICH BELONGS TO THE SEBANYE COMPANY.

- 25 NOVEMBER IS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.
- SOUTH AFRICA IS THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF PLATINUM IN THE WORLD.
- THE RATE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA, IN PARTICULAR IN THE AREA OF THE PLATINUM MINING BELT, IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD.
- IN SOUTH AFRICA, WOMEN EXPERIENCE SEXUAL ASSAULT EVERY 36 SECONDS, 40% OF MEN HAVE BEATEN THEIR INTIMATE PARTNERS AND ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR MEN HAS COMMITTED A SEXUAL CRIME.
- THE DRAMATIC COLLAPSE OF THE PRICE OF PLATINUM THAT HAS OCCURRED OVER THE LAST NUMBER OF YEARS HAS AGGRAVATED THE ALREADY CRITICAL SOCIAL SITUATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



BRIDJETTE MONOGI AT HER GRANDMOTHER'S HOME IN JERICHO WHERE SHE MOVED WITH HER 2 CHILDREN AFTER BEING RAPED BY 2 MEN ON HER WAY HOME FROM WORK.



MANY MINERS FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF SHACKS KNOWN AS SONDELA, ONE OF THE MANY LOCATED AROUND THE PLATINUM MINES OF RUSTENBURG, PASS THEIR FREE TIME IN THE BARS, TRYING TO DRINK AS MANY BEERS AS POSSIBLE.

THE PLATINUMMINE OWNED BY SEBANYE AND
THE MINERS' SHACKS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SONDELA.





A YOUNG WOMAN GETS A CHECK-UP AT TSHOLOFELO COMMUNITY CLINIC, RUN BY SISTER GEORGINA, AN ANGLICAN NUN, IN THE SETTLEMENT OF SHACKS KNOWN AS SIZA, ONE OF THE MANY LOCATED AROUND THE PLATINUM MINES OF RUSTENBURG. HERE THERE ARE ALSO MSF (MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES) PERSONNEL, WHO WORK WITH CASES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.



MAKHANYA SIPHAMANQUIA, MINER AND UNION ACTIVIST, PHOTOGRAPHED IN HIS HOUSE IN SONDELA. ON THE WALL, A PHOTO OF WHEN HE STOOD IN THE ELECTIONS TO BE A UNION REPRESENTATIVE.





ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON A GROUP OF ETHNIC XHOSA MINERS HAVE FUN DOING TRADITIONAL DANCES AND DRINKING BEER IN THE SETTLEMENT OF SHACKS KNOWN AS MAIDIKWE.



UNATHA MATHUNDA (17 YEARS OLD) PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE HOUSE WHERE SHE LIVES WITH HER FAMILY IN THE SETTLEMENT OF ZACHELE. ONE NIGHT WHEN SHE WAS 12 SHE WAS RAPED WHEN ALONE AT HOME.

A 'PROPHET' FROM A PENTECOSTAL CHURCH IN SONDELA, ONE OF THE MANY LOCATED AROUND THE PLATINUM MINES OF RUSTENBURG. MANY WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE ARE AFRAID OF GOING TO HOSPITAL OR THE POLICE, BUT HAVE AN EASIER TIME TELLING THEIR STORIES TO 'PROPHETS' OR SANGOMA (TRADITIONAL HEALERS).





A COMPANY TRAIN FROM IMPALA FULL OF MINERALS TO BE PROCESSED IN THE MINES OF RUSTENBURG.



MANY MINERS FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF SHACKS KNOWN AS SONDELA, ONE OF THE MANY LOCATED AROUND THE PLATINUM MINES OF RUSTENBURG, PASS THEIR FREE TIME IN THE BARS, TRYING TO DRINK AS MANY BEERS AS POSSIBLE.

POPPY MAKQOBATLOU (52 YEARS OLD) IN HER HOUSE IN BAPONG SHOWS THE X-RAY OF THE FRACTURED SHOULDER SHE RECEIVED AT THE HANDS OF HER HUSBAND.



BABA MHQUEHKA, SANGOMA (TRADITIONAL HEALER AND FORTUNE TELLER) FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF ZACHELE CELEBRATES A RITE TO SUMMON ANCESTRAL SPIRITS. MANY WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE ARE AFRAID OF GOING TO HOSPITAL OR THE POLICE, BUT HAVE AN EASIER TIME TELLING THEIR STORIES TO 'PROPHETS' OR SANGOMA.





LEVY MOGOE (43 YEARS OLD) OUTSIDE HIS SHACK IN THE SETTLEMENT OF SETTSWANA. SOME YEARS AGO HE WAS RAPED BY 3 WOMEN WHO HAD CLIMBED INTO HIS CAR. AS A RESULT HE WAS DIAGNOSED HIV POSITIVE AND HAD TO QUIT HIS WORK AS A POLICEMAN DUE TO THE CONTINUOUS DERISION OF HIS COLLEAGUES.



ATLEGANG MONOGI IS THE SON OF BRIDJETTE, WHO WAS RAPED WHILE COMING HOME FROM WORK. HERE HE IS PHOTOGRAPHED IN THE HOUSE OF HIS GRANDMOTHER EMILY IN JERICHO, WHERE THEY MOVED AFTER THE ASSAULT.



MANY MINERS FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF SHACKS KNOWN AS SONDELA, ONE OF THE MANY LOCATED AROUND THE PLATINUM MINES OF RUSTENBURG, PASS THEIR FREE TIME IN THE BARS, TRYING TO DRINK AS MANY BEERS AS POSSIBLE.

PHATHISWA NYHBA IN HER ONE-ROOM HOUSE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF MERYKING. LAST YEAR SHE WAS BEATEN UP, INSULTED AND FIRED FROM THE MINE WHERE SHE WORKED. THE UNION REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO DEFEND HER ASKED FOR SEXUAL FAVOURS IN RETURN.



A MINESHAFT OF AN ABANDONED URANIUM MINE IN THE ZONE OF RUSTENBURG.
THE COLLAPSE OF THE PRICE OF PLATINUM HAS LED TO THE CLOSURE OF
MANY WELLS AND SUBSEQUENT FIRING OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS
AND AN INCREASE IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.



BABA D AND HIS WIFE MAMA PHATISWA, TWO SANGOMAS (TRADITIONAL HEALERS) FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF SIZA, TALKING WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MSF (MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES), WHO WORKS WITH CASES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE. MANY WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE ARE AFRAID OF GOING TO HOSPITAL OR THE POLICE, BUT HAVE AN EASIER TIME TELLING THEIR STORIES TO 'PROPHETS' OR SANGOMA.



CHRIS MOLEBATSI IS A MEMBER OF THE BUA MINING COMMUNITIES,
A TRADE UNION TRYING TO CHALLENGE THE POWER OF THE MINING
COMPANIES AND THEIR INJUSTICES TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY.



AROUND THE SETTLEMENT OF SHACKS KNOWN AS SONDELA
AND THE PLATINUM MINES THERE ARE MOUNTAINS OF RUBBISH.





THE DAY-CARE CENTRE REALIZED BY THE TSHOLOFELO COMMUNITY CLINIC, RUN BY SISTER GEORGINA, AN ANGLICAN NUN, IN THE SETTLEMENT OF SHACKS KNOWN AS SIZA, ONE OF THE MANY LOCATED AROUND THE PLATINUM MINES OF RUSTENBURG. HERE THERE ARE ALSO MSF (MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES) PERSONNEL, WHO WORK WITH CASES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.



MUTHI PILANE, TRADITIONAL CHIEF OF THE BAKGATLA TRIBE, ON WHOSE TERRITORY THERE IS A HUGE PLATINUM MINE. HIS ROLE IS THAT OF LIMITING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS CREATED BY MINING, INTERACTING WITH THE COMPANIES AND TRYING TO OBTAIN ADVANTAGES FROM THEM FOR HIS OWN COMMUNITY.



SUNSET OVER THE SHAFT OF A CLOSED MINE. THE COLLAPSE OF THE PRICE OF PLATINUM HAS LED TO THE CLOSURE OF MANY WELLS AND SUBSEQUENT FIRING OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS AND AN INCREASE IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.



LEVY MOGOE (43 YEARS OLD) OUTSIDE HIS SHACK IN THE SETTLEMENT OF SETTSWANA. SOME YEARS AGO HE WAS RAPED BY 3 WOMEN WHO HAD CLIMBED INTO HIS CAR. AS A RESULT HE WAS DIAGNOSED HIV POSITIVE AND HAD TO QUIT HIS WORK AS A POLICEMAN DUE TO THE CONTINUOUS DERISION OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

IN SOUTH AFRICA A MAJORITY OF WOMEN CONSIDER THE VARIOUS FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE THEY ARE SUBJECTED TO BY THEIR INTIMATE PARTNERS, HUSBANDS AND STRANGERS TO BE A NORMAL PART OF EVERYDAY ROUTINE. IN FACT, THE RATE OF ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD AND CONCENTRATED, ABOVE ALL, IN RUSTENBURG: THE REGION BETTER KNOWN AS THE PLATINUM MINING BELT, THE SITE OF THE LARGEST QUANTITATIVE AMOUNT OF PLATINUM EXTRACTION IN THE WORLD.

IN SOUTH AFRICA, WOMEN EXPERIENCE SEXUAL ASSAULT EVERY 36 SECONDS, 40% OF MEN HAVE BEATEN THEIR INTIMATE PARTNERS AND ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR MEN HAS COMMITTED A SEXUAL CRIME: HORRIFYING STATISTICS WHICH COMPRISE A DISTANT, ALMOST FORGOTTEN, REALTY, ONE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ON 25 NOVEMBER WILL SHED NECESSARY LIGHT ON.

MANY SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DENOUNCE WHAT THEY HAVE SUFFERED DUE TO SHAME AND FEAR. SOME, HOWEVER, HAVE DECIDED TO FIGHT BACK AND, HELPED BY THE NGO MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES/DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS (MSF), HAVE RETAKEN CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES IN SPITE OF POVERTY, DIFFICULTLY FINDING WORK AND THE RELATED IMPOSSIBILITY OF LEADING A SELF-DIRECTED LIFE. THESE WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE ROLE MODELS FOR ALL THOSE WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO ARE SUBJECTED TO SUBMISSION AND ABUSE.

NUMEROUS STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF MSF, ACTIVE IN RUSTENBURG WITH PROJECTS AIMED AT BOTH THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE. THE ORGANISATION IS ALSO DRAFTING A REPORT CONTAINING THE MOST RECENT DATA RELATED TO THE PRESENT SITUATION: AGGRAVATED BY THE COLLAPSE OF THE PRICE OF PLATINUM, THE ECONOMY AND THE SOCIAL EQUILIBRIUM OF THE MINING ZONES ARE UNDER IMMENSE STRAIN. ONE OF THE IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CRISIS IS UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH THEN FURTHER INFLAMES TENSIONS IN A SOCIAL FABRIC MADE UP TO A LARGE DEGREE BY IMMIGRANTS FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THE GENERAL DISCONTENT AND THE IMPOSSIBILITY FOR THE LOCAL POPULATION TO FIND WORK OUTSIDE OF THE MINES FEEDS PROBLEMS LIKE ALCOHOLISM THAT, IN TURN, GENERATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

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