On Monday 7th of September President Cyril Ramaphosa promised the country that the government will tighten the laws on gender-based violence and sexual offences which have widespread across the nation. GBV in most cases affects vulnerable and defenceless women and children, though in some small-scale men to.

In August alone 30 women were killed, it prompted the establishment of the #AMINEXT. Women took to the streets to voice their fear of being the next victims. President Ramaphosa addressed the nation and said, “We agree with the women of our country that the state should oppose bail and parole for perpetrators of rape murder against murder against women and children.”

A 45-year-old man from Mdantsane was released on parole for rape in February 2014 for rape. Between 2014 and 2017 was convicted to more than 300 years for 2 murders and 18 rapes, the youngest victim was 11 years old. The last victim was a 14-year-old girl whom he tried to strangle, but the girls screamed, and nearby people heard her.

On the 28th of December 2017, a decomposing body of 28-year-old woman was discovered by a security guard. The man was on parole and cannot be named as he has not pleaded to the charges.

On Thursday 9th January 2020, the body of a missing girl, from Grass Park was found in Philippi. The girl was identified as Michaela Williams a 12-year-old, who went missing on Tuesday 07 January 2020. The accused was a 48-year-old man out on parole for a case where he had raped an 8-year-old child.

Kholeka Bodlani acting Regional court magistrate was suspended for handing down lenient sentences to criminals convicted of sexual assault and rape. These include

* Set a man free after he was accused of raping a teenager, because according to her the suspect carried a bag, styled his hair, and appeared to be gay, not interested in women.
* A father was handed a wholly suspended sentence because he was “loving”. She asked the child if the father was rough or soft when penetrating her.
* She imposed a wholly suspended sentence on a man who had sexually assaulted a 6-year-old child, reason being the child showed no signs of trauma.

And the most puzzling is about the reinstatement of a high-ranking member of the ANC in Mpumalanga, who is also its Provincial Executive Committee member. The man is accused of multiple raping an 8-year-old child, he cannot be named to protect the identity of the child. Because he is a high-ranking officer of the ANC his bail conditions were also relaxed. The ANC in Mpumalanga’s reason for the reinstatement of the man is “NEC caused this step-aside confusion”. Now go figure.

The list is too long and very painful.

* Anene booysen was gang raped and disembowelled in 2013.
* Valencia Farmer was only 14 when she was gang raped and murderd.
* Sihle Sikoji was 19 when she was stabbed to death, because she was a lesbian.
* Karabo Mokoena killed by her ex-boyfriend in 2017

To all the GBV departed may your souls rest in peace.

Let us all unite against GBV and try to identify the root cause. Please let us discuss in the comments section. God bless you.