

JASA

Justice Alliance of South Africa

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MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate
4 December 2007

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JUSTICE ALLIANCE COMES TO THE AID OF THE EASTERN CAPE STUDENT WHO WAS FORCIBLY CIRCUMCISED FOR A SECOND TIME BY TRADITIONAL LEADERS

JASA has agreed to act pro bono for Bonani Yamani (now 19 years of age) who was subjected to violent traditional circumcision on 3 March 2007 after being circumcised at the Frere Hospital, East London 3 months earlier. Bonani had made it clear that his conscience and religious beliefs did not allow him to undergo the traditional Xhosa rite.

Bonani was abducted from his home at 4 am, tied up, taken to the bush, and subjected to further circumcision by a gang of some 10 community leaders. He was forced to eat skin incised from his penis. On any view this was a serious criminal assault and a gross breach of Bonani's dignity and constitutional right not to be harassed or discriminated against on the ground of his religion, conscience and belief.

On 12 October 2007, JASA wrote on Bonani's behalf to Nkosi Matanzima (Chief of the E Cape House of Traditional Leaders) and to Nkosi Nonkonyana (E Cape Contralesa) asking for an apology to Bonani and an assurance that no one else would be subjected to circumcision against his will in the future. On November 5, JASA spoke on the telephone to Nkosi Nonkonyana personally who promised a reply to the letter within a few days. We also spoke to the PA to Nkosi Matanzima who promised a telephonic response by the end of the week and a written reply by the following week. Nothing has been heard from either Chief. Their cell numbers are 082 990 7404 (Nonkonyana) and 082 495 3464 (Matanzima).

We have accordingly written again to both Chiefs saying that we have no choice but to commence proceedings in the Equality Court (E Cape High Court) on behalf of Bonani, and asking them to disclose the full names of all the leaders in the group who committed the assault as is their duty under section 20(9) of the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, 2000.

Copies of letters referred to may be found on our website: www.jasa.za.net

Jasa is a coalition committed to the highest moral values in South African society.

Executive Board

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