A rainbow nation, dressed in black

Rustenburg – In almost every town and city across South Africa the message of Black Monday was seen, heard and felt.

The #BlackMonday protest against violence, torture and the brutal killings of farmers and farm workers spread throughout South Africa like a veld fire, culminating in Black Monday on 30 October.

Joubert Conradie, a 47-year old wine farmer, was one of the latest brutal farm killings which not only destroyed a family, but ripped through an entire community.

His death was different though: through the tears and pleading of his mourning friend, Joubert Conradie's death shined as a beacon for people from every community in South Africa to come together and say: "enough is enough".

To raise global awareness of the farm murders and attacks in South Africa, which most of the time is committed with unimaginable cruelty, the friend asked that all South Africans wear black on Monday, 30 October, to mourn those who died or whose lives were destroyed. Protestors gathered at town halls, malls and churches and drove or marched at a procession pace through the hearts of nearly every town in South Africa. In Rustenburg, Brits, Thabazimbi and nearly every other town where the *Platinum Weekly* newspaper is read, these protests were observed mostly without incident.

This symbolic funeral procession was lead by tractors, trucks and bikers to symbolise the death of our farmers and farm workers.

Not everyone was impressed by #BlackMonday. There was the odd instance of a person or two displaying the old South African flag. In protests there are always certain members pushing their own agenda. The student protests #FeesMustFall, where certain individuals set alight university buildings causing millions of rands of damage, is a good example of such actions. The organisers of #BlackMonday publicly denounced any instances of unpatriotic behaviour, stating that it deflects attention from the real issue: the brutal rape and murder of South African farmers and farm workers.

Naysayers would point to websites posting fake and inaccurate news, which can statistically "prove" that farm killings are 'on par' with the standard murder rate in South Africa... A grim reminder of people who would deny that the Holocaust ever happened.

However, those statistics are easily blurred by "what defines a farm killing". The South African Police do not distinguish farm murders from other murders when issuing statistics.

AfriForum's research institute has become the unofficial statistical monitoring watchdog, supplying the most reliable figures with empirical data collection and on the ground involvement.

There have been over 70 farm murders since 1 January 2017 and 341 reported farm attacks.

Although theft is given as the main reason behind farm attacks, the extreme brutality of farm murders and attacks is a gruesome reality.

Photo: Charl du Plessis (snap2art@gmail.com)

One example: Attie Potgieter (40) was stabbed 151 times in front of his wife Wilna (36) and their 2-year old daughter. The mother had to watch how her 2-year old Wilmien was executed and thrown in a box… eventually Wilna was also executed.

Almost all South Africans know someone who was murdered, brutally attacked or raped.

The world can choose to turn their backs on this gruesome reality, it would not be the 1st time in history… Or they can choose to hear our cry for help.

We have become so obsessed with the sins of our past, that we can no longer expect justice for the crimes of the present.

Totsiens kolonel Danie Viljoen

Rustenburg – Kol Danie Viljoen het in Potchefstroom by die SAPD aangesluit op 27 Julie 1984 – sowat 33 jaar gelede. Hy het sy kollege opleiding in Pretoria in 1985 voltooi en is as jong konstabel aangestel as wykbevelvoerder.

Kort daarna is hy as 'n voormalige aanklagkantoorbevelvoerder aangestel. Hy onthou hoe hy baie geleer het van meer ervare konstabels, genaamd Thekiso en April.

Hy is in 1988 verplaas na die destydse Afdelingshoofkantoor van die West Transvaal, waar hy siviele eise ondersoek het. Hy het die voorreg gehad om saam met gen maj Jan de Waal te werk – 'n mentor wie hy steeds beskou as die beste bevelvoerder van alle tye.

Hy is aangeprys deur hoofkantoor vir sy kennis van en die deeglike wyse waarop siviele eise in die voormalige Wes Transvaal bestuur en beheer is.

In 1990 is hy bevorder tot luitenant en verplaas na gedesentraliseerde opleiding. Hy was aangewys as een van die 10 beste studente gedurende sy offisierskursus. Hy was by Opleiding werksaam tot in 1992. 'n Verdere verplasing het gevolg na Doelmatigheidsdienste tot in 2007 met die sluiting van die voormalige areakantore. In 1996 is hy aangestel as die areahoof van Doelmatigheidsdienste en het hy vanaf Potchefstroom na Rustenburg verhuis.

Na die sluiting van die areakantore, het kol Viljoen diens verrig by onderskeidelik Phokeng en Rustenburg SAPD.

Kol Viljoen vermeld graag met heimwee etlike van die hoogtepunte in sy loopbaan: Hy het in 2002 'n persoonlike hoogtepunt bereik deur die Here as sy persoonlike Verlosser en Saligmaker aan te neem. Hy het in sy loopbaan altyd daarna gestrewe om as Christen te groei – wat hy steeds in sy persoonlike lewe uitleef.

Kol Viljoen is by uitstek 'n strateeg en was in sy loopbaan dikwels verantwoordelik vir die opstel van doelmatigheidsdokumente wat tot groot groei in die SAPD gelei het. Hy was in 1992 verantwoordelik vir die opstel van 'n verslag wat uiteindelik as beleidsdokument aangewend is vir Duikeenhede in die SAPD. Dit is aanvullend tot Magsorder 2G/1992 en deur hoofkantoor versprei.

Nuwe Misdaadondersoekdienskantore is in Groot Marico en Sannieshof op die been gebring. Ten einde groter doeltreffendheid te verseker is die SANAB kantore in Carletonville gesluit nadat sy ondersoek afgehandel is.

Na 'n deeglike ondersoek is bevind dat 'n Pilatus Porter-vliegtuig benodig word vir die SAPD in Wes Transvaal en het die Lugvleuel tot stand gekom. Daar moes besin word oor die toekenning van die vliegtuig vir die Wes Transvaal of Noord-Kaap. Kol Viljoen se verslag was deurslaggewend in die besluit om dit aan Wes Transvaal toe te ken.

Hy was onder druk om hierdie dokument so spoedig as moontlik af te handel en het 'n briljante produk op die tafel geplaas binne slegs twee dae. Gedurende 1993 het hy 'n ondersoek uitgevoer na addisionele poste vir die Instituut vir Gedragswetenskappe in Wes-Transvaal. Daar was geen vorige norme waarop die ondersoek geskoei kon word nie. Die dokument is as voorbeeld in onder andere die Oos Kaap, Verre Noord-Transvaal en Noord-Kaap aangewend.

Potchefstroom Stadsraad het in 1993 aansoek gedoen om "grootstadstatus". Kol Viljoen het 'n reuse aandeel daarin gehad om hierdie aansoek suksesvol te laat afloop – hy het daarvoor 'n aanprysingsbrief vanaf die stadsklerk ontvang.

Hy was verantwoordelik vir die totale mensekragplan in die hele Potchefstroom streek. Gedurende 1992 is daar, na vele onderhandelings met die Departement van Openbare Werke en verskeie verslae wat ingedien is, 'n geslaagde aansoek gebring om kantore vir die Kinderbeskermingseenheid in Carletonville te bekom.

In 1993 was hy ook verantwoordelik vir die implementering van 'n nuwe "Diensoffisierstelsel" wat deur Streekhoofkantoor inwerking gestel is.

Hierdie minsame, saggeaarde, tog ferm offisier, word beskou as een van die Polisie se grootste bates en sy kundigheid sal beslis gemis word. Dit is veral sy kennis van dissiplinêre verhore wat hom as 'n deeglike en hoogs professionele offisier laat "naam" maak het.

Kol Viljoen het verskeie medaljes ontvang gedurende sy loopbaan:

- SAP medalje vir Troue Diens (10 jaar)
- SAP Gedenkmedalje (75 jaar)
- Commemmoration medalje 10 Years
- Medalje vir 20 jaar getroue diens
- Sokker Wêreldbeker medalje
- Medalje vir 30 jaar getroue diens
- Centenary Medalje 1013 tot 2013

Kol Viljoen het 'n verstommende 24 kursusse in sy loopbaan bygewoon en was altyd besig om homself as polisiebeampte te verbeter. Kol Viljoen is ook 'n regsgeleerde en het met verdere studie homself met 'n B. Juris-graad bekwaam. Hy het ook 'n Projekbestuur- en Strategiese Bestuurskwalifikasie behaal. Hy is rekenaargeletterd en was ook gemoeid met opleiding in hierdie verband.

Kol Viljoen het op 11 Julie 2014 'n beroerte gehad en moes worstel met hierdie persoonlike uitdaging in sy lewe. Sy positiewe gesindheid en liefde vir God het hom deur hierdie moeilike tyd gedra. Hy vermeld met deernis die ondersteunende rol wat Marina, sy vrou, in sy lewe speel en kan haar nie genoeg bedank vir die wyse waarop sy dikwels moes verstaan wanneer hy laat werk of kursusse moes bywoon. Hy beskryf haar as "sy kosbaarste geskenk van God". Hul het gedurende Maart/April 2014 die voorreg gehad om in Israel te gaan toer.

Kolonel Danie Viljoen

My nalatenskap en advies aan bevelvoerders in die SAPD is die volgende: "Onthou dat jou menslike hulpbronne jou grootste bate in die Organisasie is. Behandel hulle met respek en hulle sal vir jou berge versit. Mense wil gerespekteer, gewaardeer en geliefd voel. So dikwels behandel bestuurders hul menslike hulpbronne net as 'n "hulpbron" en dan wonder hulle waarom hulle nie samewerking kry nie. Bemagtig en ontwikkel jou mense."

Beste ander bevelvoerders waarmee hy saamgewerk het: afgetrede brigadier Marius Dippenaar, gen maj Suzette Pretorius en gen maj Asaneng.

Kol Viljoen het op 31 Oktober 2017 sy kantoordeur vir die laaste keer toetrek wanneer hy met mediese pensioenering groet.

Dit is met deernis en groot hartseer wat hierdie "Groot Gees" gegroet word. Mag ons nog dikwels jou "brein tap" en mag dit met jou en Marina net goed gaan. Ons beste wense vergesel Kol Viljoen en sy gesin.

Profiel saamgestel deur kaptein Elsabé Augoustides

A court ruling has made it illegal to spank your child in SA

Letter to the Editor

How do parents feel about this? Let's refer to passages from the Bible (NKJV).

Proverbs 23: 13-14: "Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell."

Proverbs 29: 15: "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."

In my opinion, either you are fit to be a parent, or not. Parents need to be adult enough to understand what it means to be a parent. I do not condone assault or abuse.

Discipline is guidance; children are born not knowing boundaries. Some boundaries can be guided without a spanking, while others require punishment to understand what they did was unacceptable. I've raised my two children by disciplining them when needed.

I was corrected as a child by my parents, and have done the same in the upbringing of mine. They knew why they were being punished; it was always out of love, never anger.

Today, my offspring are my pride and joy, for the respectful, thoughtful, well-mannered adults they have become.

Without discipline at home or school, what will become of our future generations?

Concerned Rustenburger