

CRIME

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Miraculous Survival!



Rustenburg – Emergency personnel say the driver of a car that embedded itself under a double axle side tipper truck most likely would have suffered fatal injuries if the point of impact was 10cm to the left or right. Against all odds 30-year-old Barend van Jaarsveld survived. It can only be described as a miracle.

The accident took place around 4h00am on Wednesday morning, 4 May 2011, when a truck driver in the employment of ZR Transport made a U-turn on the R24 (old Jhb road) close to the SPCA crossing. "The driver was suspended with immediate effect awaiting an internal hearing," a spokesperson for ZR Transport said.

"The silver grey Toyota Yaris, presumably driving at a high speed, slammed into the side of the truck, driving underneath and compressing the roof almost down to the body frame," said ER24 manager Roeloff le Roux. Barend van Jaarsveld, an employee of Anglo, was on his way to work, when the unthinkable occurred. The driver of the truck however, was not injured.

Using the "Jaws of life" the emergency personnel managed to extricate Barend van Jaarsveld from beneath the truck. He sustained serious head injuries and was transported to the Peglerae hospital. While the day started off like so many other, it ended with van Jaarsveld in the Intensive Care Unit, gravely injured. Mr van Jaarsveld, husband and father of an eighteen month old baby, is now fighting for his life.

"His condition is critical and his blood pressure has not yet stabilised. The next three days is a crucial time," medical personnel at the Peglerae hospital told the Platinum Weekly on Thursday.

Manager of ER24 Roeloff le Roux just want to commend the people involved in this team effort to extricate Mr van Jaarsveld and secure his safety. The SAPS, the Fire Brigade, an employee of ZR transport, Jairos Shoke and a member of the public (name unknown) who contacted the family of Mr van Jaarsveld. "What Mr. Van Jaarsveld now needs is our prayers," he added.

Police BRUTALITY under the Spotlight

Numerous cases of police brutality were lodged at the Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD) during the past few weeks.

- A 26-year-old policeman based at the **Potchefstroom** Crime Combating Unit (CCU) was arrested in connection with the shooting of a man in Khuma, Stilfontein, the Independent Complaints Directorate said on Monday. The policeman allegedly shot Tshelo Johannes Tau, 23, on Sunday at a tavern in Khuma after an argument, ICD spokesperson Moses Dlamini said in a statement.

"The argument apparently led to the constable being assaulted by Mr Tau. "Then the constable allegedly went home and returned with his service pistol after which he fired at Mr Tau," he said. Tau was shot in the stomach and cheek and his 28-year-old brother was shot in the left elbow. Both were admitted to hospital. Tau died on Monday morning.

- Paramedic attacked at scene: **Pretoria** - Beaten, kicked and dragged to the ground before police thrust a cocked R5 semi-automatic assault rifle into his face. This incident is the fifth police brutality case lodged with the ICD in less than four weeks.

- Theuns Potgieter, 33, of **Silverton** had gone to a petrol station in Gezina around 9pm on Thursday, April 21, to get two flat tyres repaired, Beeld newspaper reported on Monday.... While he is being handcuffed, police members started attacking him. Potgieter was taken to hospital after vomiting blood and passing blood in his urine. Everything was caught on CCTV.

- Andries Tatane, a Cope elections candidate, was killed during a protest in **Ficksburg**.

He was allegedly shot at point-blank range with rubber bullets and beaten with rubber truncheons. It is also being investigated by the ICD.

- The **Kempton Park** Police officer accused of murdering a 45-year-old woman had a history of negligence in handling a firearm. Police sergeant Manape Phineas Kgoale, 38, was convicted of illegally discharging a firearm in 2003. Regional court magistrate Eric Mhlari denied Kgoale bail, citing as his reasons his gun negligence and the seriousness of the case. ICD spokesperson Moses Dlamini said outside the court, "We are obviously pleased as we said we would oppose bail."

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