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NEWS SOUTH AFRICA

## Booyesen cleared of wrongdoing in shooting

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**The provincial head of Serious and Violent Crime, Director Johan Booyesen, did not act outside the law when he handed his firearm to another person during an armed robbery in Durban last week.**

The head of South African Police Legal Services in KwaZulu-Natal, Assistant Commissioner Tommy Reed, said a section of the Arms and Ammunition Act made provision for possession and use of a firearm with the consent of the licence holder.

Last week Booyesen walked into an armed robbery with his 16-year-old daughter, Natalie, in Technotronic Electronic Computer Store in Smith Street.

The owner, Aris Danikas, was held up by four men. Danikas and an assistant were forced into a back room by one of the robbers while the other three suspects looted the shop.

When Booyesen walked in three of the robbers fled, but a fourth held Booyesen and his daughter at gunpoint before fleeing with a bag containing computer equipment.

Booyesen handed his firearm to Danikas, who is a police reservist.

Danikas shot and wounded the robber, who was later arrested.

Booyesen has come under severe criticism for his action, which he has described as being tactical.

He said he was astonished to be made out to be a villain for handing over the firearm.

Reed said two principles in common law, namely necessity and private defence, would exclude any unlawful conduct on Booyesen's part.

Reed said in a statement that he was fully satisfied with the explanation from Booyesen, who he described as a brave and dedicated policeman.

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