

From: Susan Smuts <smutss@timesmedia.co.za>

Date: Friday, 12 August 2016 at 9:52 AM

To: Jessica Pitchford <jppitchford@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: booyesen book

Dear Jessica

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your questions. Please accept our apologies for not responding earlier.

The responses follow:

1. Our investigation started after we received an email from human rights activist Mary de Haas (083 227 0485) on October 1 2010 about threats faced by taxi operators from members of the police. Our reporters flew to Durban soon afterwards to interview two of the taxi operators in De Haas's presence. One of them played a recording of a Cato Manor member threatening to kill him. De Haas and the taxi operators asked us to investigate. By then, a senior police official in Pretoria had also briefed our reporters about allegations that Cato Manor members loyal to Johan Booyesen were responsible for an unusually high number of suspicious killings. The story was not the result of a plant by crime intelligence, which is what your question suggests.
2. The date given (September 2008) for the Ndimande shooting in our report of December 2011 is incorrect. We reported the correct date in four other stories that mentioned the shooting.
3. The point about the helicopter trip to the Ndimande was that Johan Booyesen arrived at the scene shortly after the shooting - and long before the line commander of the Cato Manor members involved.
- 4 - 7. These questions related to putative sources and/or confidential discussions. We are not willing to discuss these. **We are willing to say that one of our sources was Ari Danikas (we offered to facilitate an interview for you with him - the offer still stands), a reservist in the Cato Manor unit and a confidante and friend of Booyesen for 10 years.**

Regards

Susan

Ari Danikas