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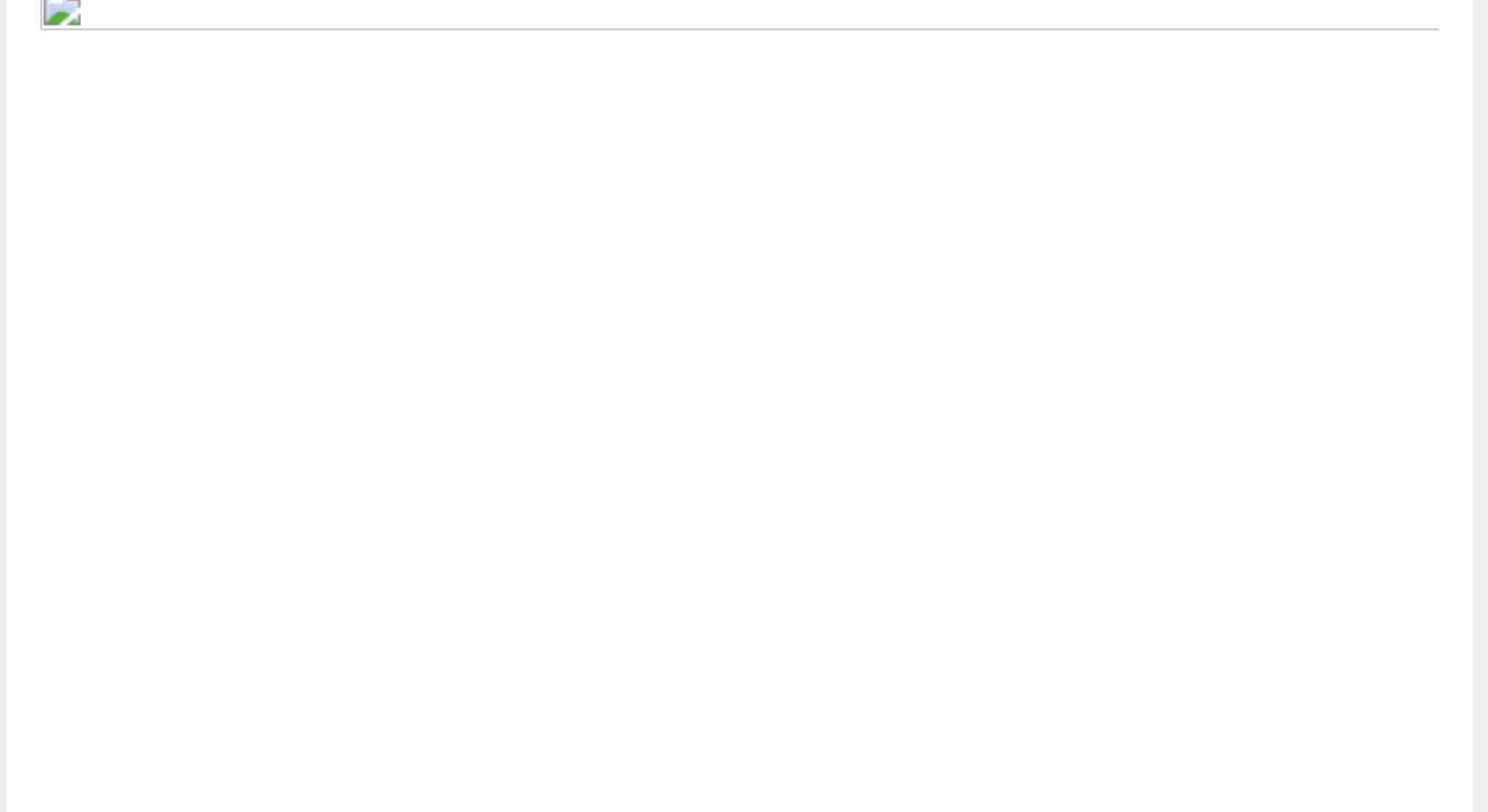
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# Convict to be liberated

Friday 19 April 2013 - 4:45am



Durban - A man who was handed a life sentence for murder will be released from a Durban prison after serving seven years of his jail term.

This after new details surrounding the murder of IFP leader, Thomas Shabalala, have come to light.

Shabalala was shot in January, 2005 outside his home in full view of his children in Lindelani near Durban.

Nkosinathi Chiya was a 21-year-old and a final year Chemical Engineering student when he was convicted of murdering Shabalala.

A confession made in a suicide note and new affidavits now earn him the right to appeal his conviction.

Chiya claims that the Cato Manor organised crime unit was desperate to solve the crime that he was forced to confess to a crime he never committed.

His mother Nombuso Chiya said the police force acted as a law unto themselves.

"The things I saw those Cato Manor cops do was something I have never seen before. The way they beat up my son in front of me. They wielded guns at us, they were all over our house with guns. I&39;m really happy now, finally my son has been released. There were too many hidden secrets and people involved that will come out now."

The Justice for Prisoners and Detainees Trust wants all confessions made to the disbanded unit which led to convictions, to be reviewed.

"There are thousands of people who have suffered and (were) tortured by the police during the investigation. There have been a lot of deaths of suspects (caused) by police in Cato Manor. There were forceful confessions that were obtained from the suspect(s) and later taken to court," said spokesperson Derrick Mdululi.

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