

Khayelitsha Commission

TIMELINE



The O'Regan/Pikoli Commission of Inquiry into Policing in Khayelitsha was established in 2012, but the history of the Commission lies in more than a decade of struggle for safety and justice in Khayelitsha.

2008

The SJC is founded in response to the xenophobic attacks of 2008. Soon after, the SJC starts developing a campaign for dignified sanitation and safe communities. The calls of Khayelitsha residents and civil society for proper action to be taken on safety are largely ignored. Years of deep-rooted systemic issues push the SJC and other civil society organisations to call for a formal investigation into policing in Khayelitsha.

13 December 2003

TAC activist Lorna Mlofana is raped and murdered



Early 2000s

Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) begins to advocate for better policing, access to justice and safer communities in Khayelitsha. TAC held marches and protests, submitted memoranda to the police and government, monitored court cases and assisted victims of crime.

4 February 2006

Zoliswa Nkonyana is murdered

23 September 2010

At a picket of more than 500 people at the Provincial Legislature, Khayelitsha organisations call for then Western Cape MEC for Community Safety, Albert Fritz, to launch an independent investigation into the continued failures of the Khayelitsha criminal justice system.

16 December 2005

TAC activist Nandipha Makeke is raped and murdered

30 September 2010

MEC Fritz indicates that this process will happen. No developments take place and in 2011 Dan Plato becomes the new MEC for Community Safety.



4 October 2011

At a picket of more than 600 people, MEC Plato receives a memorandum once again requesting an independent investigation.



13 October 2011

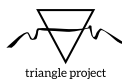
Khayelitsha civil society organisations meet with Western Cape Premier Helen Zille and MEC Plato to discuss our memorandum. It was agreed in principle that an investigation would lead to better policing and safety. The Premier indicated that she was waiting for our organisations to lodge a formal complaint.

28 June 2012

SJC holds a night vigil for lives lost to vigilante violence. A SAPS report states that in a period of 14 months between 2011 and 2012, 78 people lost their lives to vigilante violence in Khayelitsha. Many said that people were taking the law into their own hands because they had lost all hope in the police.

EARLY CAMPAIGN

2010 2011 2012



28 November 2011

Khayelitsha civil society organisations lodge the formal complaint (based on a decade of evidence) in terms of Section 206 of the Constitution. The complaint was sent to the police, who largely ignored it until June 2012. This was the first time that communities and civil society have used this provision in our Constitution.

Despite different fields of focus, our organisations had been united by addressing crime, violence and an under-resourced, overworked and often non-responsive police and justice system in Khayelitsha.

22 August 2012

Premier Zille announces the Commission of Inquiry. The Commission's terms of reference were to: investigate allegations of a breakdown in the relationship between the police and the community of Khayelitsha and ineffective policing in the area.

October 2012

Then Minister of Police Nathi Mthethwa and Premier Zille meet to discuss the Commission and the Minister urges the Premier to not proceed with the Commission.



Khayelitsha Commission TIMELINE



14 January 2013

Judgment is delivered and a split decision dismisses the SAPS application, allowing the Commission to continue.

1 February 2013

SAPS make an application to the Constitutional Court to appeal against the High Court ruling and stop the Commission's work.

6 August 2013

Constitutional Court case is heard and on 1 October 2013 judgment is delivered. The Court dismisses the SAPS application with costs. The highest court in the country ruled the Commission must go ahead.

EARLY CAMPAIGN

2012

2013

FIGHTING IN COURT

November 2012

Minister Mthethwa and the SAPS go to court to declare the establishment of the Commission unlawful. On 13 December 2012, the case is heard before a full-bench of the Western Cape High Court.



PHOTO: SHAE HERRMANN

29 October 2013

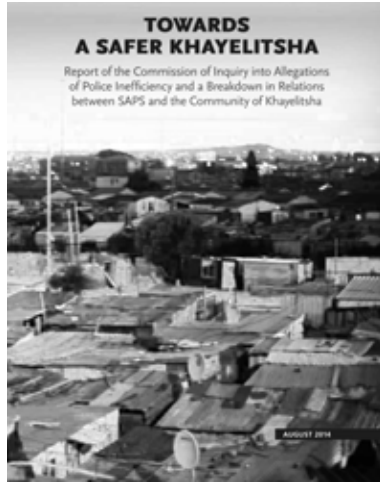
The Commission holds its first preliminary sitting and explains how it will gather evidence and proceed.





23 January 2014

Commission public hearings begin at Lookout Hill in Khayelitsha. Residents of Khayelitsha attend every day. Between January and May, the Commission hears from more than 100 witnesses: Khayelitsha residents, police, government officials and experts. The full record of all the information supplied is more than 50 000 pages.



25 August 2014

Commission publically releases the report in Khayelitsha. Residents hold a celebratory march to Lookout Hill to receive it.

October 2014

SAPS invites SJC, other civil society organisations, government departments and other Khayelitsha stakeholders to be part of a Joint Forum to further the work of the Commission and its recommendations. The Joint Forum consists of 8 sub forums: vigilantism, alcohol and drug abuse, road safety, youth gangs, business crime, violence against women and children, and research.

2014

2015

THE COMMISSION

IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

21 January 2014

Commission begins its public phase of work, conducting site inspections of Khayelitsha police stations and crime hotspots. The Commission had also been collecting evidence and hundreds of individual testimonies for months before the public hearings.

29 May 2014

Lawyers for all parties deliver their final arguments and the public hearings are completed. The Commission breaks to write its report.

8 November 2014

The Joint Forum hosts a summit at the University of Cape Town attended by many senior police officers, activists and researchers. Engagement with the new Minister of Police, Nkosinathi Nhleko, begins for his office to formally recognise the Commission's report and to get commitments and plans to implement the recommendations.

