

MEC Dhlomo condemns murder of a 27 year-old nurse outside Oakford Clinic (nurse spoke out against femicide in Facebook post in 2017)

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KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has strongly condemned the murder of a 27 year-old nurse who was shot and killed by an unknown person(s) at the entrance of Oakford Clinic in Verulam this morning.

It is alleged that colleagues of the nurse, who hailed from KwaMashu, heard gunshots being fired outside the clinic. When they went to investigate they found her inside her silver car, with gunshot wounds to her head and hand. She was rushed to Osindisweni Hospital, where she was certified dead on arrival, leaving behind an 18 month-old baby.

The professional nurse, whose name is being withheld to allow for all her relatives to learn about her demise through the appropriate channels, was a leader of the school health team at Osindisweni Hospital. The motive behind her murder is unknown.

In a Facebook post on 17 May 2017, she put up a picture frame with the writing: "On Strike. End violence against women"

In 2014, she did her community service at Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital, and was employed there in 2015. She then secured a transfer to Osindisweni Hospital on 1 March 2018.

Friend and hospital PRO Mr Elias Mthimkhulu, last spoke to her yesterday. "There was no sign that there was anything troubling her. She was just acting normal." Mthimkhulu said staff at Osindisweni hospital and at the clinic were traumatised by the incident. "We are all sad. She was loved. She was as a quiet, dedicated and disciplined nurse. A very focused person."

MEC Dhlomo is shocked by this gruesome murder. *"The senseless murder of this young nurse is absolutely shocking and sad. It is unthinkable that anyone would deem it fitting to take away a life in such a callous manner. This kind of femicide is happening all too often, and asks serious questions of us as a society, about the value of life. For us as healthcare professionals, it is always a sad day when we lose a staff member due to unnatural causes and in such violent fashion because these are people who've been sent by the Almighty God himself, to preserve and save lives. So, we are devastated. We are praying for the Almighty to extend His hand and grant this nurse's family strength during this difficult time. We hope the police will make an arrest soon."* ENDS