

## Mxenge Case Intro

Griffiths Mxenge was a well-known black African National Congress (**ANC**) **attorney** in Durban. He represented members of resistance groups and people charged with crimes as a result of their struggle against apartheid.

On November 19, 1981, Mxenge left his office in the evening to drive to his home in the African township of Umlazi. When he was almost home, he **pulled over** to help what he thought was a **stranded** motorist – a man standing next to a van with the hood open. Mxenge got out of his car and the man asked him for a jump start. At this point, several men approached Mxenge and forced him into the back of his own car. They drove him to a nearby stadium, where they **stabbed** him repeatedly (over 40 times), slit his throat, disemboweled him and nearly cut off his ears. They **stole** his jacket, watch, wallet, and car and left his body in the stadium.

The **killers** were Brian Nguluma, Almond Nofemela, Joe Mamasela and David Tschikalange, who were all black. They were **recruited** by Dirk Coetzee to kill Mxenge.

Coetzee was an **Afrikaner** and a member of the South African **security forces**. He was also the **commander** at Valkplaas, a **secret farm** outside the capital of Pretoria. The **purpose** of Valkplaas was to **train spies** to get information about the ANC. The white Valkplaas officers felt that they were playing a special role in **protecting** white, Christian civilization in South Africa from a **communist takeover**.

At the time of the killing, the security forces covered the murder up. They claimed that ANC members had killed Mxenge in an argument over money. But in 1989, Almond Nofemela, who was on death row for another killing, confessed to being part of the team that killed Mxenge and named the other people involved. Coetzee, afraid that he would be blamed for everything, fled the country in 1989.

- Griffiths Mxenge
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