MEMO TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
DELIVERED AND READ ALOUD IN CAPE TOWN ON 15 FEBRUARY 2026 (Draft 2)

To the South African Police Service leadership and investigative teams,

Today, we stand at your gates, not only with placards, but with the heavy burden of unanswered questions, unanswered calls, and unanswered humanity.

One year ago today, Imam Muhsin Hendricks - a beloved Muslim leader, internationally recognised as a pioneering advocate for queer Muslims and human rights, was ambushed and shot dead in broad daylight in Nelson Mandela Bay. This senseless assassination resulted in a national and global outcry with calls for justice.

He was not "a statistic." He was a human being, a father, a servant of justice, a bridge in faith that held steady even in storms of threat and fear. His life was cut brutally short. The world mourns. South Africans continue to cry out for justice.

And today we say plainly:

Not a single arrest has been made in this assassination. No suspect has been publicly identified. No substantive update has come to the family, to the community, or to the South African public.

1. PROGRESS REPORT FROM SAPS INVESTIGATING OFFICER — FORMAL DEMAND

We demand from your office, in clear writing and in full detail:

- *What investigative steps have been completed in the past 12 months? List forensic results, witness interviews, ballistic analyses, digital evidence reviewed, surveillance footage examined, and any other investigatory actions.*
- *Has any credible lead been followed? If suspects have been identified, even if not yet arrested, state this. The reason why they are persons of interest.*
- *Why, after 12 months, is there no arrest and no public indication of progress? We require the exact causes of delay, the obstacles identified, and the plan to overcome them with timelines.*

We expect a written, signed, dated progress report delivered to Imam Hendricks' family, Al-Gurbaah Foundation and the National Task Team (NTT) and Rapid Response Team (RRT) on Hate Crimes by no later than 15 March 2026.

2. PROPOSED TIMELINES OF ARREST ACTION

We require from SAPS:

- *A clear timeline for arrests if suspects exist, OR*
- *A public, time-bound strategy for how suspects will be brought to book if none are yet identified.*

We are not asking for promises grounded in hope. We are asking for accountable timelines grounded in law enforcement best practice.

3. PRIORITISE THIS INVESTIGATION NOW

The lack of urgency in this case is stark and dangerous. We remind SAPS that the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Act was signed into law in 2023 to protect vulnerable groups. Yet, its delay in implementation leaves victims and families in uncertainty. This was not an isolated murder.

This was an assassination that has fueled fear, emboldened hate speech online and offline, and made visible that Muslim sexual minorities, our queer siblings, feel increasingly unsafe and unprotected.

There must be checks, accountability, and transparency.

We call for:

- *Immediate prioritisation of this investigation as a hate crime*
- *Referral of the case to the Political Killings Task Team or another national priority task force*
- *Direct oversight from national crime intelligence, the Department of Justice and prosecutorial partners*

4. ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPACT ON SAFETY AND TRUST

We demand SAPS publicly acknowledge and state:

- *That the murder of Imam Hendricks has heightened safety risks for queer Muslims across South Africa.*
- *What protective measures SAPS will implement for queer Muslims and other vulnerable queer groups at risk*
- *How reporting channels will be made safer and more trusted by communities damaged by betrayal, by brutal loss, and by inaction*

This is not speculation. After his murder, social media witnessed increased hateful rhetoric and threats that discourage reporting and swell fear in already marginalised groups. This toxic environment suppresses victims' trust, discourages cooperation with law enforcement, and fuels cycles of silencing. Your silence has deepened this fear.

5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STATEMENT

We call on SAPS to issue a comprehensive public statement including:

- *Honest acknowledgement that one year has passed with no arrest*
- *What exactly investigators have done*
- *Where the investigation stands today*
- *Steps SAPS is taking to ensure hate crimes are taken seriously and acted upon swiftly*
- *How SAPS will protect queer Muslim communities and all vulnerable populations from violence and retaliation*

This statement must be released within **5 business days** of today's date.

FINAL WORD

Today, we march not to beg for justice. We march to demand it. We should not have to gather here **one year after an assassination** to remind law enforcement that every life, every human

soul, is sacred, and that the value of lives like Imam Hendricks' is equal under the Constitution and the law.

Imam Hendricks lived with courage. He died in service to his truth. We will not let his death be buried in bureaucratic silence.

We demand accountability. We demand transparency. We demand justice.

In the spirit of justice and compassion for all humanity, may this memo be delivered, read, heard, and acted upon without delay.

Issued by:

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15 March 2026