



Republic of South Africa
Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services

Private Bag X 9177, Cape Town 8000 Tel: +27 (0)21 421 1012 Fax: +27(0)21 421 1086
<http://judicialinsp.pwv.gov.za>

PRESS RELEASE

The Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS) is investigating events at the Helderstroom Correctional Centre in the Western Cape which occurred during the week of the 16th to 23rd September 2016. Inmates allegedly assaulted officials of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) who sustained serious head and facial injuries. Officials used force, as a result of which number of inmates sustained serious injuries, including broken legs and a broken jaw.

The Centre was visited by JICS inspectors, as well as the Inspecting Judge, Justice Johann van der Westhuizen.

DCS is conducting its own investigations.

JICS is mindful of the unacceptable phenomenon of gangs within our facilities and the DCS's attempts to eradicate their activities. It has to be stressed, though, that force may be necessary to contain attacks by inmates on officials, but retribution and torture are completely unacceptable. Should this be shown to have taken place, appropriate measures will have to follow. Similarly any violence perpetrated by inmates must be dealt with the appropriate criminal sanctions as well as the internal disciplinary rules.

ISSUED AT CAPE TOWN ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2016

On behalf of JICS by :

Umesh Raga