

Held Hostage and Raped at House of 'Injustice'

By Sonica Naudé-Steyn

A woman who was allegedly kidnapped and raped repeatedly for three days, managed to escape from a vacant house in Elliott Street on Saturday where her captors had held her hostage since



The vacant and ill-kept 'Justice House' in Elliot Street has allegedly become a haven of criminal activity since the former occupants, the late Magistrate Buytendag and his wife vacated the property.

Thursday.

According to police spokesperson, Captain Dumisani Ncongo, the 37 year old woman was walking home from work, alone, last Thursday evening when she was grabbed by two men around 18h30.

“While walking alone she heard someone and then she was grabbed from behind. When she turned and looked she saw they were two black males and one she recognised from seeing him in the Mpela area,” said Ncongo.

The men lifted her off the ground, carrying her while claspings their hands over her mouth and threatening to kill her with a knife if she screamed.

“They took her to the ‘Justice House’ in Elliott Street where they both raped and hit her several times. On Saturday, 14 September, the men went to buy food for her and she managed to run away,” said Ncongo. The victim reported the case to the police who then arrested two male suspects, aged 38 and 56. Both men appeared briefly in court on Monday.

The house in question, referred to as the ‘Justice House’ is a vacant home in Elliot Street which belongs to the KZN Department of Public Works and is allocated to the local Justice Department. The house was formerly occupied by the late Magistrate Buytendag. However when he passed, his wife vacated the home and it has since been unoccupied.

According to a source, who wishes to remain anonymous, the house has since been stripped of all its valuable items and has been used for criminal activity. The source claims that criminals use the house for drug deals and accommodation for criminals and that the situation has been brought to the attention of the KZN Department of Public Works, however nothing has been done. The source fears that the latest capture and rape of the female victim is simply the tip of the iceberg if there is no intervention in the matter. All efforts to reach the KZN Department of Public Works proved fruitless at the time of going to press.