



Call for help

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Occupants of the former Helen Bowden Nurses' Home in Green Point say they are living in dark and dangerous conditions, without electricity, running water or security.

They are urging the provincial government to come to the table and convert the home into social housing.

The occupation began in 2017, the same year that anti-apartheid activist Ahmed Kathrada died so the residents renamed the building in his honour.

"I was attacked in my home last month, two men just barged in here and threatened me, they took nothing, they just threatened me," said 53-year old Elizabeth Gqoboka.

"I called the police and four vans pulled up, there were eight officers but none of them wanted to enter this building as they said it's too dark," she added.

In response to Ms Gqoboka's complaint, Sea Point SAPS' Captain Cyril Dicks said: "Kindly be advised that the allegation that Sea Point police are scared to attend complaints at the illegally occupied building you are referring to, is devoid of truth. Caution is applied when our members are summoned to any area or premises which is not regarded as safe. Policing is not reserved to a certain section of the public and everybody has access to our services. The inhabitants of this building are no exception."

In an email to the Atlantic Sun, the provincial Department of Transport and Public Works said security personnel have been employed to prevent further illegal occupation and vandalism of the property.

■ Ahmed Kathrada House and Reclaim the City activist Elizabeth Gqoboka sheds light in a dark corridor.

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