

INTERNATIONAL

Trial shows plight of South African farmers

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The murder trial of three men accused of throwing a Black farm worker to the lions offers an extreme example of the plight of farm workers in a country that still has a culture of violence, human rights researchers said.

Prosecutors allege that Mark Scott-Crossley, a White farmer, and two of his workers attacked Nelson Chisale with machetes last January, beat him, held him at gunpoint, tied him up and then drove him 12 miles to a lion reserve and threw him over the fence where he was de-

voured.

Chisale had been fired and was attacked when he returned to retrieve belongings, police said.

The trial, which started last week, has generated impassioned protests from demonstrators who see the killing as another racial attack in this country still grappling with its apartheid past.

The gruesome nature of the killing has helped inflame the demonstrators, who have chanted so loudly at times that court officials have had to quiet them.

But human rights researchers interviewed Friday

said it wasn't clear that the attack was racially motivated — Scott-Crossley alleged accomplices are Black. They said, though, that it was an extreme example of the violence and abuse regularly meted out to farm workers.

South Africa's Human Rights Commission said in a 2003 report that attacks on farm workers are common.

"Historically in South Africa, farmers see farm workers as part of their property, to do with as they like," the commission's chief, Jody Kollapen, said Friday.

Today as in apartheid South Africa, farm owners

are mostly White, their workers mostly Black.

Scott-Crossley's Black co-defendants, Richard Mathebula and Simon Mathebula — who are not related — argue that they followed the orders of their White employer.

"The public sees a White farmer and a Black victim. In South Africa today it is hard to separate race from how these incidents are perceived," said Kollapen.

"We are conditioned in South Africa to look at race. If a crime can have either a racial or just a criminal motive, conditioning compels us

to look at the racial one," he said.

Browyn Harris of the Institute for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in Johannesburg said killings such as that of Chisale highlight the complexities of a country still struggling with its racist past.

"It also is symptomatic of the whole culture of violence that we live with," said Harris.

South Africa has one of the highest rates of murder and violent crime in the world. Harris said that the killing of Chisale was one of the most horrible examples

of a culture that has so inured people to violence that sometimes life has no value.

In the trial of Chisale's alleged killers, spectators packed the courtroom Friday in Phalaborwa, 290 miles northeast of Johannesburg, straining to see Chisale's shredded, bloodstained clothes when they were presented during testimony.

Days after Chisale was reported missing, investigators who searched the lion reserve found only a few bones, shreds of clothing and remains of one finger that allowed them to identify the victim from the fingerprint.

Zimbabwe newspaper: Rice washes away sins of White power

By James Wright
Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Condoleezza Rice's confirmation hearing last week by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee concerning the Iraq war was fierce at times, but it was her listing of Zimbabwe as an "outpost of tyranny" that created the real firestorm.

Rice, now confirmed to

replace Colin Powell as secretary of state, stated that Burma, North Korea, Cuba, Iran, Belarus and Zimbabwe were countries "where the United States will stand behind the people for freedom and democracy." While she did not go into specifics, it is clear that the Bush administration finds the political situation in Zimbabwe, one of Africa's strongest economies,

unacceptable.

Stan Mudenge, Zimbabwe's minister of foreign affairs, reacted swiftly.

"There is no need for Dr. Rice to pander to the nauseating, nonsensical whims of the largely racist anti-Zimbabwe clique in the United States Senate," he said.

Zimbabwe's state-run newspaper, *The Herald*, also blasted Rice.

"She is a Black woman who will be manly and White in her relentless assault on Blacks, their liberties and their remnant and dwindling sovereignties.

"She will be a Black who washes away the sins of White power as its bludgeons non-White states."

In a statement, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe called Rice and the Bush ad-

ministration "fascists."

At one time known as Rhodesia, Zimbabwe, under British colonial rule, suffered from brutal policies of racial segregation and oppression of its Black majority. After a civil war, fought largely along racial lines in the 1960s and 1970s, Rhodesia became Zimbabwe. In 1980, Blacks achieved majority rule.

Many believe

Zimbabwe's freedom set the stage for South Africa's move to multi-racial democracy in the '90s.

Mugabe, elected in 1980, is the only president Zimbabwe has ever had. This has fostered movements within the country to remove him. Using his powers as president, Mugabe has quashed armed rebellions and sus-

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Report: Rich countries poach doctors from African nations

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Lagos Island Hospital lost two of its best surgeons and several nurses to Gulf nations, Europe and America last year, leaving it in a dire situation shared by hospitals across the developing world.

"It is usually the most skilled and experienced who leave. We lose their skills and there's no one to train new people," Lagos Island's Dr. John Adebawale said last week, the day a new report was released detailing the costs of the migration of medical professionals from poor to rich countries.

Cheap labor from the developing world doesn't just mean taxi drivers, nannies and maids. Rich countries save hundreds of thousands of dollars in training on the doctors and nurses they poach from poor nations, creating a shortage of health care workers in those countries, according to the report from the International Organization for Migration.

The intergovernmental group, which often works closely with the United Nations on immigration and refugee issues, estimated it would have cost rich nations about \$184,000 to train each of the estimated 3 million professionals educated in poor countries now working in the developed world, for a "staggering" total savings of \$552 billion.

Poor nations, meanwhile, spend \$500 million a year training health workers, according to the report presented at a two-day meeting to discuss the impact of the migration of Africans.

The report's author and International Organization for Migration deputy director general Ndioro Ndiaye said developed countries recruited from poor nations in part because of

nurse and doctor shortages in the West.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said the "brain drain" affects all countries, but hits Africa harder than other continents.

"The fact that we have limited resources also increases the relative cost of education and training. So when skilled professionals migrate we are doubly affected," Meles said.

It is estimated that by 2025 one in 10 Africans will work outside their own country.

In an attempt to address the problem, the International Organization for Migration is encouraging rich countries to pay for professionals from poor countries to return to their homes to work for an unspecified time each year.

Belgium, working through the migration organization, underwrites such working trips for professionals from its former colonies Burundi, Congo and Rwanda, an official at the Belgian Embassy in Rwanda said Wednesday.

In Nigeria, Lagos Island Hospital wears a new coat of cream paint, giving the hospital a healthy look that belies its problems. Poor salaries are paid late and overworked doctors have to work with outdated equipment, leaving most dissatisfied and eager to leave, Adebawale said.

For those health professionals left behind, it means more work. More than 80 percent of Nigerians live on less than \$1 a day and can't afford expensive privately run hospitals providing relatively better service. They flock to government-subsidized hospitals, such as Lagos Island Hospital, where over-stretched staff barely meet overwhelming demand.

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