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CIVIL SECURITY

## SAPS aware of soldier allegedly attacking Cape Flats resident

By [DefenceWeb](#) — 15 July 2026 ⌚ 3 Mins Read



*Screenshot of a soldier kicking at a civilian in the Western Cape.*

Reaction to a social media video in which an SA Army soldier apparently hits and kicks an Elsies River woman during an Operation Prosper anti-crime action has drawn reaction from the SA Police

Service (SAPS) but not – as of today (15 July) – from the SA National Defence Force (SANDF).

The [incident surfaced](#) on Cape Flats community crime social media groups on Sunday 12 July and was given further coverage by the Cape Argus and other publications with the Independent Group title reporting it happened when police busy with a crime prevention operation in Balvenie Estate saw suspects arrested in connection with alleged drug related offences.

Western Cape SAPS spokesman Colonel Andrè Traut is reported as saying: “As members were returning to their vehicles following the arrests, a member of the public allegedly attempted to throw a stone at police officials. The individual was immediately prevented from doing so by members of the SANDF and no injuries were reported”. To date no charges have been laid against either police or soldiers and, according to the Cape Argus, “no formal complaints have been received by the SAPS regarding police conduct”.

The operation yielded 59 mandrax tablets, 338 packets of cocaine and about R2 000 in cash suspected to be linked to drug dealing activities, with one suspect arrested.

In terms of arrests, Traut said 1 054 suspects were arrested for murder, attempted murder, firearm and drug-related offences since Operation Prosper was launched in April in the Western Cape. fatal shootings continue to plague communities, with more than 40 people killed in suspected gang-related attacks since the deployment began.

While official reaction to the video has not yet come from the SANDF Directorate Corporate Communication (DCC), the Military Ombud on 14 July issued a statement clarifying its mandate and complaints process, in similar vein to what it did when allegations of soldier brutality were raised during the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022.

It notes, apart from media inquiries, three complaints made to the Eco-Park, Centurion headquartered SA Military Ombud headed by retired major general Vusi Masondo, on the joint SAPS/SANDF anti-crime Operation Prosper deployment which saw the first boots on the ground in April. President Cyril Ramaphosa used his February State of the Nation Address (SONA) to make public the year-long “employment” of 2 200 soldiers and support personnel to assist and back up police curbing gangster activities and illegal mining in five provinces. Late in June he authorised another military activation, this time of 3 405 personnel “in the event of required emergency heightened security measures” related to anti-illegal immigrant protests in all nine South African provinces.

In terms of the Military Ombud Act of 2012, Masondo and his staff are empowered, among others, to investigate written complaints lodged by a member of the public regarding “official conduct” of SANDF personnel. The 17 July Ombud statement reads further “the office is open to assist any member of the public who believes they have been adversely affected by the official conduct of a SANDF member while acting in an official capacity” which a retired officer told this publication is “generally interpreted” as being in uniform and on duty.

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