



SHACK WHERE MIKAYLA WAS FOUND

NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE

MIKAYLA'S HOUSE

JUST beyond the fence in the neighbours' back garden, a few metres from where her mom last saw her alive, Mikayla Rossouw's little body was found nearly two weeks after she was reported missing – in a garbage bag inside a box under the alleged rapist and murderer's bed in his foul-smelling tin shack.

For 13 days police and volunteers combed the suburb of Railton in Swellendam, Western Cape, in wind and rain looking for the six-year-old.

"Please drop her somewhere so she can find her way home," her mom, Elsabé Rossouw, had pleaded the day before.

Now her child is dead – and a 24-year-old family acquaintance is behind bars.

The Railton community is baying for blood

By Pieter van Zyl

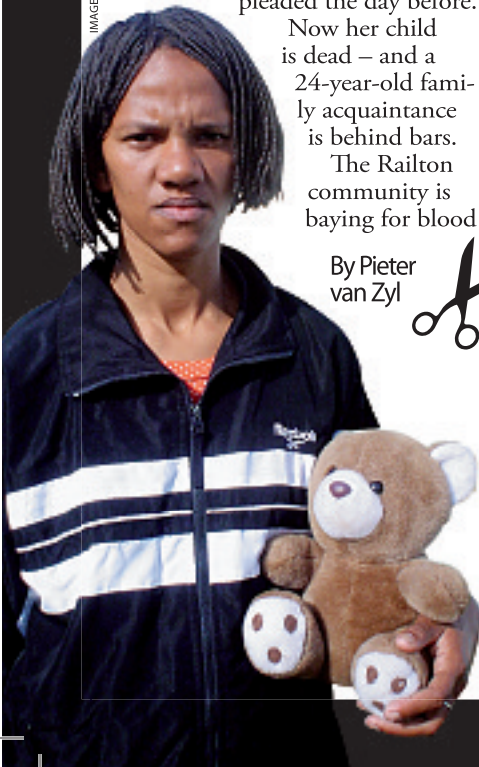


YOU CAN help save our kids

INTERVENTION COULD HAVE **SAVED** THE LIVES OF MIKAYLA AND OTHERS

WHAT TO DO WHEN A CHILD GOES MISSING

- It's a myth that you need to wait 24 hours before reporting a child missing. **Go to the police immediately and insist on reporting the matter there** and then, even if they tell you to come back later. Nine out of 10 children abducted by strangers are sexually assaulted and then let go. If the abduction leads to murder, 91 per cent of victims die within 24 hours of disappearing.
- **If the police refuse to act go to the station commander.** You have the right to pressure the police to immediately investigate a disappearance.
- **Retrace the child's movements.** Where was she last seen? Tell the police everything.
- **Give the police your most recent pictures** of the child, a list of their **friends' names** and telephone numbers, the child's **dentist's number**, details of **surgical scars** and any other information that could be useful.
- **Stay away from the place where your child last played at home before disappearing and stay calm** – if you panic you'll be incoherent and unable to provide information.
- If you're unhappy with the way the search is progressing call the station commander and then the provincial commissioner. **You can even approach the minister** but then the investigating officer will first have to compile a report.
- If you can afford it immediately hire the services of an accredited **private detective**. He must cooperate with the police who remain in overall control of the case.
- To immediately register a child as missing call the **South African Centre for Missing and Abused Children** on 0861-647-746 or visit the website www.missingkids.co.za or e-mail info@missingchildren.co.za.



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