



Professor Peter Katjavivi

Katjavivi

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"I look forward to working with parliamentary colleagues to improve the quality of our work so that we can fulfill the aspirations of the people of Namibia."

Professor Katjavivi returned to the National Assembly 18 years after he had left the House to become Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia, which was being transformed from an education college into a fully-fledged university.

He served in that capacity for several years before he was sent on diplomatic missions as Namibia's ambassador to several countries in Europe. At UNAM, he was replaced by Professor Lazarus Hangula, the current Vice Chancellor.

Professor Katjavivi's second last appointment was at the National Planning Commission, NPC, where he served as its Director-General. It was from there that President Hifikepunye Pohamba appointed him to the National Assembly, among the six nominees appoints.

Leaked video

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Wikileaks posed a security threat due to published information potentially being of use to "foreign intelligence and security services, foreign military forces, foreign insurgents, and foreign terrorist groups".

On July 12, 2007, US troops and resistance fighters clashed in Baghdad. Reuters' employees Noor-Eldeen and Chmagh were investigating when they were seen by US helicopter gunships among a group of about a dozen men, one or two of whom appeared to be carrying rifles. The occupying forces made no attempt to verify whether the men were civilians carrying legally-owned weap-

ons—Iraqi households are allowed to have one registered AK-47 rifle—or establish the identities of the other unarmed men. After radioing a report to their superiors, US gunners received permission to kill everyone in the group.

The incident appeared to be one of several indiscriminate attacks. Ahmad Sahib, an Agence France-Presse photographer who was a few blocks away, has reported: "It looked like the American helicopters were firing against any gathering in the area, because when I got out of my car and started taking pictures, people gathered and an American helicopter fired a few rounds, but they hit the houses nearby and we ran for cover."

Just before the Reuters' jour-

18 die during Easter Holidays

At least 18 people were killed during the Easter Holiday as a result of road accidents which happened between 1 – 5 May. Nine of the 18 people died between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo in Otjozondjupa Region.

The Police have once again warned and appealed to motorists to consider their fatigue and rest before driving long distances, to be courteous and patient when driving on public roads, to strongly adhere to road traffic signs and consider blind spots when overtaking.

Police Inspector-General, Lt General Sebastian Ndeitunga, has expressed Nampol's heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families of those who have lost their lives during the Easter Holidays. He appealed to motorists to take all necessary precautions throughout the year.

Passengers have also been urged and reminded to be vigilant and warn drivers on their drinking and bad driving habits. Pedestrians should also adhere to road traffic signs and avoid crossing roads at undesignated points.

"It is a civic responsibility

Police Inspector-General, Lt General Sebastian Ndeitunga, right, has expressed Nampol's heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families of those who have lost their lives during the Easter Holidays. He appealed to motorists to take all necessary precautions throughout the year.



Two members of the Namibia Defence Force, NDF, were killed in this horrific car accident in which three vehicles were involved shortly after a deadly Easter Holidays, which claimed 18 lives. The accident happened near Oamites Army Base on the B1 Road.

of every citizen to ensure road safety at all times," said Deputy Commissioner, Hophni Hamufungu, Nampol's Head of Public Relations Division. "Hence, strict adherence to road rules and regulations is of paramount importance."

Some of those killed were

hit by cars while crossing roads, while some jumped from cars when drivers lost control of their vehicles. Among them was Lylie Nanghelo Velikoshi, who died on the Werda/Kamanjab road on Saturday last week.

The driver apparently

drove off the road and in an attempt to get back on the road, Velikoshi jumped out of the vehicle and died instantly. The worst accident happened when a minibus crashed head-on with a truck between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo. Nine people died on the spot.

front seat of the vehicle.

When US troops on the ground discover the children, the helicopter gunners respond with indifference. "Well it's their fault for bringing their kids into a battle," one says. Another replies: "That's right."

After initially ordering the children to be evacuated to a US military hospital for emergency treatment, the troops on the ground were told to hand them over to Iraqi police who were then to take them to a Baghdad hospital. Despite suffering chest and arm bullet wounds, both children survived. Their mother, however, has reportedly received no compensation for the death of her husband or ongoing medical expenses for her children.

After the evacuation of the wounded at the scene of the massacre, one of the troops laughs as he sees a US tank drive over one of the bodies of those initially killed: "I think they just drove over a body... Hey hey! Yeah! ... Maybe it was just a visual illusion, but it looked like it... Well, they're dead, so..."

Towards the end of the un-abridged video footage, the Apaches fire three Hellfire missiles into an apartment complex after reporting that gunfire had been fired from there. Julian Assange, Wikileaks co-founder, told *Democracy Now!*: "We

have fresh evidence from Baghdad that there were three families living in that apartment complex, many of whom were killed, including women. And we sent a team down there to collect that evidence... Innocent bystanders walking down the street are also killed in that attack."

The footage provides a rare first hand glimpse of the military's recurring war crimes committed in the aftermath of the 2003 invasion. Consistent with all colonial-style wars of occupation, US troops are brutalised, desensitised to violence, and encouraged to regard the local population with racist indifference and hostility.

The US ruling elite regarded the invasion as a means of utilising its military might to take control over a large part of the Middle East's critical energy resources, thereby gaining an advantage over rival powers in Europe and Asia. From this decision to wage a war of aggression—what was defined by the Nuremberg tribunals as "the supreme international crime"—has followed innumerable atrocities leading to the deaths of an estimated one million Iraqis. The images depicted in the video footage are typical of what was carried out on a daily basis in Iraq and what is now being inflicted on the

people of Afghanistan and in the border regions of Pakistan under President Barack Obama's offensive.

The Iraqi Journalists Union yesterday demanded a criminal investigation into the killing of the Reuters' employees. "This is another crime added to the crimes of the US forces against Iraqi journalists and civilians," union leader Mouyyad al-Lami said. "I call upon the government to take a firm stance against the criminals who killed the journalists."

According to Reporters Without Borders, 221 journalists and media assistants have been killed in Iraq since the 2003 invasion. In many cases there is overwhelming evidence of the US forces deliberately targeting journalists. It does not appear that this was the case in the 2007 killings of the two Reuters' reporters.

However, senior US military figures subsequently used the incident to warn journalists against attempting to cover the Iraq war independently of the occupying forces' authority. Responding to questions about Noor-Eldeen and Chmagh's deaths, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman last year declared: "We think the safest way to cover these operations is to be embedded with US forces." **WSWS**

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