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Media Release

e Press Release: 3rd Degree - The Hawks

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At the 2007 ANC Conference in Polokwane, political elites started calling for the elite crime fighting unit, the Scorpions, to be disbanded.

Although they had secured many high-profile convictions, including that of ANC stalwart Tony Yengeni, 2009 saw the end of the Scorpions and the formation of the Hawks. Critics claimed the ruling elite wanted to exercise control over what crimes were investigated – and what were not.

For three years, businessman Hugh Glennister challenged the Scorpions' axing. Two weeks ago, the Constitutional Court ruled in his favour. They said that the formation of The Hawks under the South African Police Service (SAPS) Amendment Act and Section 43 of the National Prosecuting Authority Amendment Act was unconstitutional, that they were not independent enough.

This Tuesday 3rd Degree looks at the way forward in the struggle to establish an anti-corruption crime fighting unit, free from political interference.

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