



Press Release

3rd Degree: Battling Identity **Tuesday 2 May @ 8pm**

This week, **3rd Degree** tackles the issue of **lesbian attacks** in the townships. Though the South African constitution guarantees equal rights to gays and lesbians, attacks on those of a different sexual orientation continue unabated. Particularly worrying is the trend of intolerance and blatant discrimination in the townships. Lesbian groups estimate that black lesbians are the most vulnerable as they live in hostile communities where falling in love with another woman is a taboo in African culture.

3rd Degree looks at the case of 19-year-old Zoliswa Nkonyana, who was stoned to death by half a dozen youths in February. Her friend, 17-year-old Lolly, escaped and has been living in hiding ever since. The perpetrators are out on bail and have gone to her school to hunt for her. She says she misses school but cannot go back for fear of her life. We talk to Zoliswa's distraught parents, trying to come to terms with the fact that their only daughter is gone.

3rd Degree also interviews 'Keba' who was raped by a close friend in a ritual that was meant to cure her of her lesbianism. Two years down the line she is still waiting for justice. Her attacker is free and has threatened her with death. **3rd Degree** also goes into the townships and interviews youths who claim that lesbians are taking their girlfriends. It seems the battle lines for the survival of the fittest have been drawn. On the other hand a group of lesbians say they want to be left alone as they have a right to date anyone they want.

3rd Degree, Tuesday, 2 May @ 8pm only on **e!**

For more information and pictures, please contact:

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