

‘Machel killer’ released from Pretoria prison

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Mpikeleni Duma

A former Civil Cooperation Bureau operative who confessed his role in the assassination of former Mozambican President Samora Machel was released on parole from Pretoria Central prison on Wednesday night.

Hans Louw, a Namibian national, was serving a 28-year sentence for murder committed while in the service of the CCB.

Louw, who confirmed his parole, was quietly dropped in Kimberley in the Northern Cape by Pretoria prison officials. Correctional Service has not confirmed his parole.

In October 1986 a plane carrying Machel crashed and killed the Mozambican president and 33 others on board. It was claimed at the time that the crash was no accident. Louw confessed that he was part of clean-up team tasked with ensuring Machel died. However, the backup team was not activated as per the original plan.

According to Louw, a false beacon was put in position by military intelligence operatives of the apartheid government to divert the plane. Louw says he was also part of a squad that spied on advocate Anton Lubowski and knows the name of his killers.

URL: <http://www.sowetan.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=832365>