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UCT statement on the acquittal of those accused of the murder of UCT student Dominic Giddy

Please cite Gerda Kruger, Executive Director: Communications and Marketing, University of Cape Town

Since the tragic death of University of Cape Town (UCT) student Dominic Giddy (21) in February 2010, the University of Cape Town has monitored reports of the arrest and subsequent trial of those accused of his killing. Today we learnt of the acquittal of two of the accused in the Cape Town Regional Court after a third accused was also acquitted earlier this month.

Giddy was a third-year BSocSc student at the time of his stabbing and was on the threshold of a pivotal time in his life. UCT, his family and South Africa have been robbed of a talented individual whom we expected to have made an important contribution to our society.

Giddy's death was preceded by the fatal shooting of first-year medical student Benny Pakiso Moqobane (19) five months earlier, and the deaths of two professors, Mike Larkin and Kevin Rochford, who were murdered in 2007 and 2008 respectively. All these crimes took place off campus. UCT is outraged that these crimes, like the one involving Giddy, have still not been solved. This feeling is shared by many who have been the victims of crime in South Africa.

UCT has worked tirelessly to improve the safety and security of the areas bordering the campus. This includes the establishment of the Groote Schuur Central Improvement District and a closer working relationship with the South African Police Services.

UCT is also applying its academic expertise to the issues of crime and violence in South Africa. We have established the Safety & Violence Initiative (SaVI) as a university-based research collaboration to raise awareness about these issues; enable researchers to engage with each other across disciplinary boundaries; and help build national, continental and international networks between academics, civil society and public sectors.

ENDS

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