

SHOPRITE CHECKERS POCKET CASHIER TIPS, THEN IMPRISON THEM FOR “THEFT”



The Shoprite 8 are a group of South African women who were handcuffed, then thrown in prison by agents of Shoprite Directors Whitey Basson and Pieter Engelbrecht, for accepting customers' tips. On the 11 August 2017 their lives changed inexplicably when they were accused of approximately R50 theft each, then transported in the back of a police van and forced to spend a night locked in a prison cell. They had never been handcuffed or spent a single moment incarcerated before. One was pregnant, one was breast feeding and another had just lost a child in the preceding week. At least one of them experienced a panic attack behind bars.

These young mothers represent the majority in South Africa. They were doing their level best to provide great service to Shoprite's clientèle and provide for their families. Impoverished communities try to help low paid cashiers with tips as per legal affidavits obtained by The Workers International Vanguard League (see enclosed). These young women are the sole income providers for their (sometimes extended) families. They were paid R2,400 per month, a wage on which one of the arrested had to support 8 children, 4 of her own and 4 she took under her own care.

Mr Basson, long running Shoprite director received approximately R8 million per month last year. He is also the recipient of an honorary degree from Stellenbosch University Chancellor Dr Johann Rupert, who awarded it to him: *“for investment in the development of human potential in the disadvantaged sectors of society”*.

Shoprite's new CEO, Mr Pieter Engelbrecht, got the job because of his ability to “cut costs” and receives over one hundred thousand Rand a day. Their after tax profit exceeds 4,500 million Rand. If they were to keep their salaries and double all the cashiers' income to a more liveable wage of R5,200/month, the company would still make a handsome profit in the 1000's of millions.

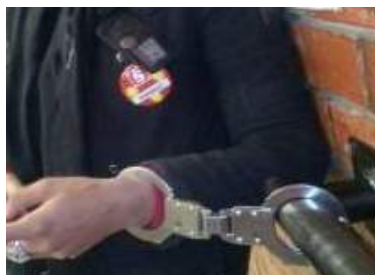
Shoprite Pelican Park on the Cape Flats of the Western Cape is a classic example of how structural inequality is reinforced.



Supermarket Monopolies claim “providing jobs” and “food security” as exception for what are actually crimes against humanity. Judge Kate Savage acknowledged in the recent Tokai murder: The court took note of the perpetrator’s circumstances and the difficulty in supporting a family on R2,400 a month. “This court accepts that this combination of factors - financial need, drugs and no doubt limited opportunities for financial advancement - creates a tinderbox for crime to thrive.”

Attached are the Affidavits of each member of The Shoprite 8 explaining the appalling circumstances they are experiencing from having their freedom, dignity and respect taken away, not even to mention their reputation and prospects of future employment due to their current criminal records. Their financial situation is dire.

Minister for Women in the Presidency Susan Shabangu released this statement: “This form of violence perpetrated upon the beings of the victims is not only unconstitutional, but it also resembles the brand of power and control that reproduces racist, classist and gendered forms of violence.”



It has been 45 days since the girls' incarceration and there has been no retraction or apology from Shoprite. They refuse to withdraw the theft charges for approximately R50 taken per employee and claim the tips belong to Shoprite.



The New Horizon Community Forum, Workers International Vanguard League and SEESworld ask all Ministers and the Courts to act divisively on the violence carried out against the most vulnerable in our community.

We call on the mistakes of 1994 not to be continued and for what was taken from these South African women to be returned in full. This includes their dignity, their self confidence, their self respect and sense of self worth. Should these women not be valued at the same rate that the CEO of Shoprite is, for all the days their bodies and minds have been unlawfully imprisoned by fear? Supermarkets were originally entrusted by communities to enrich and nourish the people within the communities they trade, not imprison, impoverish and supply unhealthy food, then abuse our minds by advertising every single day of their slogan "Better and Better".

Artificial Intelligence is now being quietly pushed to government ministers through lobbying by corporations, robots are already doing stock taking in American supermarket aisles, cashierless checkouts are here too. Supermarkets and other corporations need to rethink how they are benefiting the community each time they introduce technology that replaces labour, while considering that what allowed them to advance to that level of technology was enabled by the labour invested by workers.

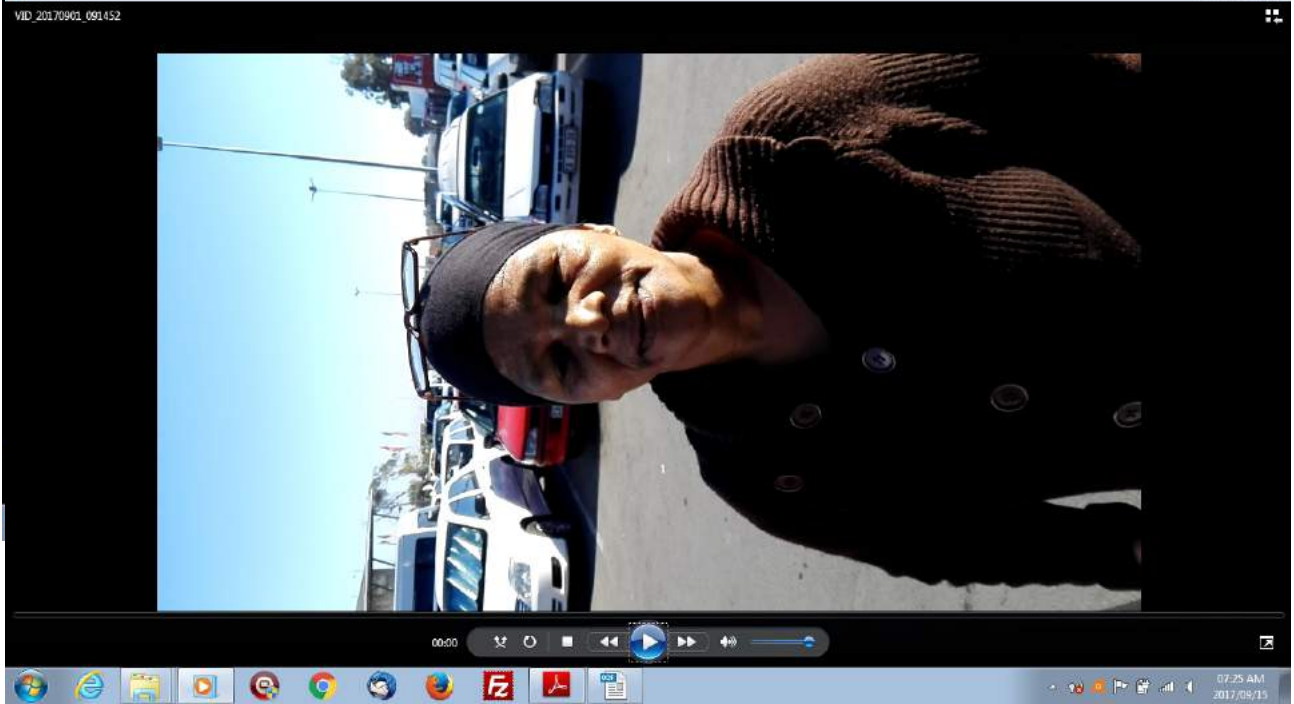
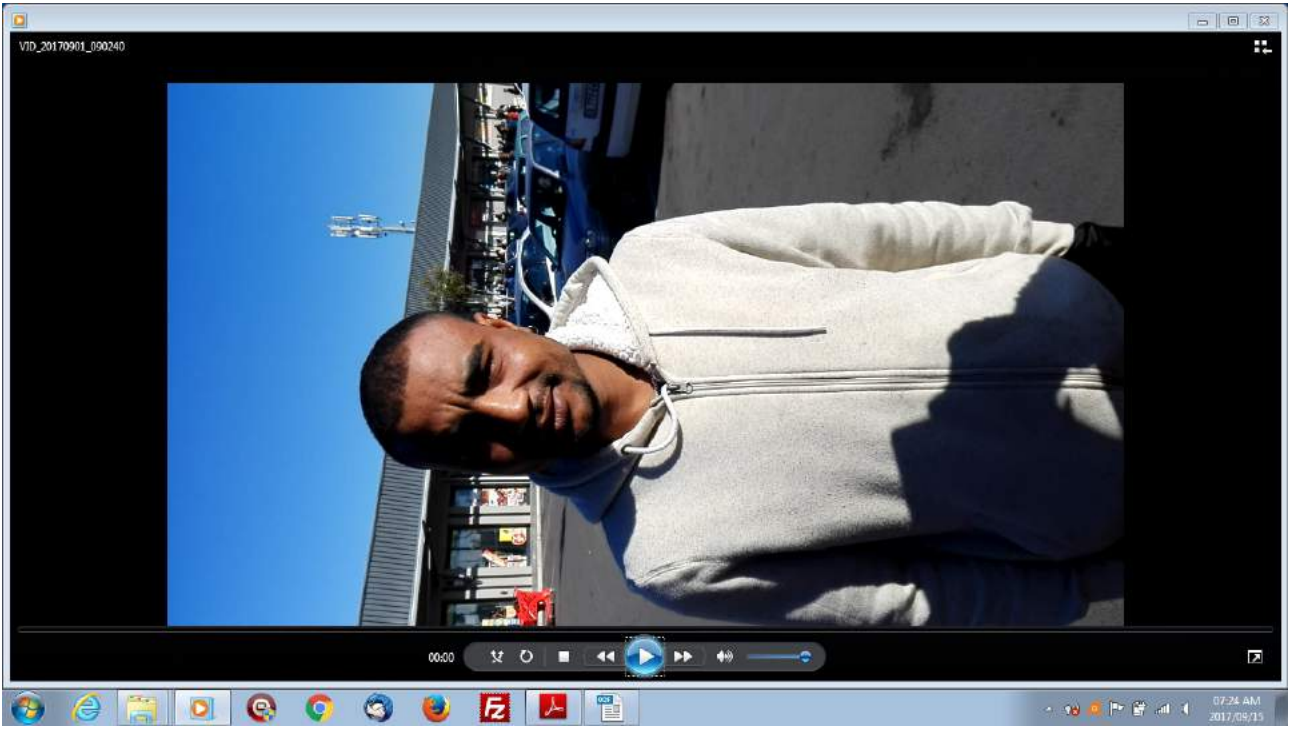
Allowing this crime against The Shoprite 8 to go unpunished paves the way for more inhumanity. Never before has a pregnant worker been incarcerated for taking a tip.

Shoprite authorities are testing the water to see how far they can go. If we allow Shoprite's 'company policy' to supercede South African Constitutional Law, then there is no hope for South Africa.

Let us use what happened to The Shoprite 8 as a beacon of hope for all cashiers, petrol attendants, drivers, all lowest paid workers THROUGHOUT South Africa. Let us ask courts and government to send a clear message that the lowest paid are the real celebrities of our nation – Our Human Celebrity Resources.

SHOPRITE Pelican Park CUSTOMER TIPPING AFFADAVITS





Action Plan for The Shoprite 8 & all FMCG low paid workers:

16 September 2017

1. Criminal charges against The Shoprite 8 must immediately be dropped
2. Sustenance to be provided for them and their families
<https://www.backabuddy.co.za/champion/project/the-shoprite-8>
3. The Community demands compensation of R 100,000 per day per cashier for duration in which criminal charges are active.

4. Minimum wage increased to R40/hr for all supermarket cashiers

5. Tipping of supermarket cashiers – national law reform

RE: : The ShopriteCheckers8



From **Mario Michael Segal** 
To **Siyabonga Keka** 
Reply-To **mario@seesworld.org** 
Date **2017-12-13 14:45**

Dear Siyabonga

i hope this email finds you very very well!

If i may update you please on theshoprite8 case, media editors from timeslive and news24

have suppressed this story so we received no real support for our crowdfunding initiative. The women are desperate and now i have experienced first hand my brother, why our people resort to crime.

<https://www.backabuddy.co.za/champion/project/the-shoprite-8>

It would be most wonderful to receive some support from Impact Litigation on National Tipping laws that clearly need an overhaul, to protect those less fortunate than us. PLEASE.

On other matters you may be please to know SEESworld has been very hard fighting to combat our Mental Health Epidemic : please see our plan of action here which has already commenced:

<https://seesworld.org/images/SEESworldMentalHealthBlueprint.pdf>

We also making progress with many other social agendas including assisting "social housing" which has been captured by monopoly capital:

<https://seesworld.org/index.php/component/k2/item/42-south-africa-s-steenvilla-showcases-a-broken-system>

Bill 12.2015

An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 2000 with respect to tips and other gratuities

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

.The *Employment Standards Act, 2000* is amended by adding the following Part:

PART V.1

EMPLOYEE TIPS AND OTHER GRATUITIES

Definition

14.1(1) Subject to subsection (2), in this Part,

"tip or other gratuity" means,

(a) a payment voluntarily made to or left for an employee by a customer of the employee's employer in such circumstances that a reasonable person would be likely to infer that the customer intended or assumed that the payment would be kept by the employee or shared by the employee with other employees,

(b) a payment voluntarily made to an employer by a customer in such circumstances that a reasonable person would be likely to infer that the customer intended or assumed that the payment would be redistributed to an employee or employees,

(c) a payment of a service charge or similar charge imposed by an employer on a customer in such circumstances that a reasonable person would be likely to infer that the customer intended or assumed that the payment would be redistributed to an employee or employees, and

(d) such other payments as may be prescribed.

Same

(2) "Tip or other gratuity" does not include,

a) such payments as may be prescribed; and

(b) such charges as may be prescribed relating to the method of payment used, or a prescribed portion of those charges.

Prohibition re tips or other gratuities