

As news of the **Fred van der Vyver** trial in South Africa continues to spread across the world the court proceedings are reaching a critical stage.

After what to UK eyes were some strange comments by Judge Van Zyl related to Fred's right to silence his legal team has asked the judge to allow him to give evidence. A decision is expected on 16 October.

http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=320865&area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_national/

A side issue we have discussed on this forum is the importance of avoiding offensive statements and innuendo particularly about named individuals. No matter how strongly we feel about an issue such postings tend to alienate the objective reader and reduce the impact of the poster's argument. Debate after all is more than a one-way diatribe of bias and prejudice but a reasoned discussion in which your opponent's points are listened to and then countered with courtesy and intelligence.

A South African forum on the case makes this point rather well and although some of the debate is in Afrikaans it becomes clear that no amount of reasoned argument is going to dissuade some of the often anonymous posters from their poisonous ways.

<http://www.blogsouthafrica.net/2007/10/02/inge-lotz-murder-11th-hour-surprise/#comments>