

**MEMO: INDEPENDENT POLICE INVESTIGATIVE DIRECTORATE
OFFICIAL STATISTICS & FIGURES (2015-2016 FINANCIAL YEAR)¹**

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (“IPID”) is obliged to investigate deaths as a result of police actions, any complaint of torture or assault against a police officer in the execution of his or her duties (section 28(1) Independent Police Investigative Directorate Act, 2011).

All the data and statistics listed below were retrieved from IPID’s 2015/ 2016 annual report (*The Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Vote no. 20, Annual Report, 2015/2016 Financial Year*), a copy of which annexed to this memorandum.

1. The number of deaths in custody for the 2015/ 2016 financial year:
 - a. 216,²
 - b. 66 of the deaths were suicides (hanging).³
2. Figures related to the number of assault and torture reported in 2015/2016:
 - a. Assault – 3466,⁴
 - b. Torture - 144.⁵
3. Investigations of allegations against police and cases finalized (the data below is inclusive of the South African Police Service and Municipal Police Services):
 - a. Percentage of investigations of deaths in custody cases that are decision ready: 69% (229 of 333).⁶

¹ The Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Vote no. 20, Annual Report, 2015/2016 Financial Year. Retrieved from <http://www.icd.gov.za/sites/default/files/documents/IPID%20AR%202015%2016%20WEB.pdf>

² *Ibid*, page 49

³ *Ibid*, page 55

⁴ *Ibid*, page 49

⁵ *Ibid*, page 49. Acts of torture are those acts prohibited by the *Prevention and Combating of Torture of Persons Act 13 of 2013*.

⁶ *Ibid*, page 79

- b. Percentage of investigations of torture cases that are decision ready: 54% (124 out of 229).⁷
 - c. Percentage of investigations of assault cases that are decision ready: 72% (5070 out of 7000).⁸
4. In 2012-2013, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate reported 4131 cases of assault and 50 cases of torture. In 2013-2014 the figures were 3916 cases of assault and 78 cases of torture; and in 2014-2015 the figures were 3711 assaults and 145 cases of torture.⁹ It appears that in some parts of the country there has been a surge in torture cases for the 2015-16 year.¹⁰

⁷ *Ibid*, page 81

⁸ *Ibid*, page 81

⁹ IPID Annual Report: 2014-2015.

¹⁰ *Spotlight on spike in SAPS torture cases in KZN*, Cape Times / 19 October 2015: "The staggering escalation of KwaZulu-Natal police torture cases, which rose by 137 percent in the past financial year, was as a result of a culture of "brutality and criminality" being fostered in the service."

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The table below shows the total of deaths per circumstance which resulted death in the police custody for the financial year 2015/2016. Most deaths in police custody can be attributed to suicide (hanging) with 66 cases, followed by natural causes with 56 cases, injuries sustain in custody (SAPS member) with 14 cases and injuries sustained in custody (Inmates/Suicide) with 13 cases.²

Table 5(a): Intake per circumstance – Deaths in custody	Incident (s)
Injuries sustained in custody (Escape)	1
Shot with service firearm	1
Injuries sustained in custody (Inmate/suicides)	13
Assaulted	8
Poisoning	1
Suicide (shooting)	3

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² *Ibid*, page 55.

Burning	1
Injuries sustained in custody (SAPS member)	14
Shot with service firearm	7
Assaulted	7
Injuries sustained prior to custody (Civilian)	5
Assaulted	2
Shot with private firearm	3
Injuries sustained prior to custody (crime related)	4
Assaulted	1
Shot with private firearm	1
Shot with service firearm	2
Injuries sustained prior to custody (suicide)	8
Poisoning	1
Shot with private firearm	2
Suicide (Accidental suicide or other)	4
Suicide (shooting)	1
Injuries sustained prior to custody (vigilantism)	49
Assaulted	49
Natural Causes	56
Natural Causes (illness)	56
Suicide	66
Suicide (hanging)	66
Total	216