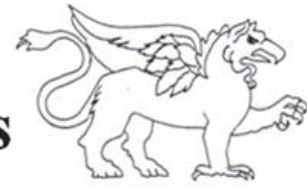




*Specialised*  
Security Services



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**PROJECT:**  
**CRIMINALS**  
**TARGETING**  
**CHURCHES**

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*Churches and religious institutions are not exempt from criminal activity. Criminals exploit any opportunity and are motivated by the perceived ease of committing crimes without repercussions.*

*Like any regular business, churches and similar organisations should prioritise safety and security measures.*

*Churches must acknowledge that they are potential targets. They need to be vigilant and understand that societal attitudes have shifted, rendering religious institutions no longer immune to criminal activity, which is driven primarily by greed.*

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**THIS PUBLIC DOCUMENT IS  
INTENDED TO BE SHARED.**

**PLEASE DO SO.**

**THE OBJECTIVE OF SSS IS TO  
SHARE INFORMATION, TO EDUCATE  
AND FOREWARN THE PUBLIC.**

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- Criminals are terrorising the religious sector, which they view as a soft target.
  - Recent news articles have highlighted this increasing trend after the Easter Holidays when several congregations were targeted.
  - Since people gather to pray in what they believe is not only a holy space but also a safe space, they are oblivious to the possibility of an armed attack.
    - Bibles are downloaded on smartphones.
    - Credit cards are being used to pay tithes.
    - Vehicles are concentrated in one place during church services.
  - Theft and armed robbery quickly escalated into more serious crimes recently, including assault, kidnapping and murder.
  - Robbers attend services posing as worshippers before pulling out firearms and robbing congregants of their cell phones and wallets.
  - Churches are easy targets because attendees are focused on worshipping, view the buildings as holy, and often tithe in cash.
  - However, criminals have proven no qualms about trespassing on holy ground.
  - Churches have reportedly started cancelling evening services amid the rise in crime.
  - They are turning to private security and CCTV setups.
  - Churchgoers are being encouraged to leave their cell phones and purses/wallets at home when attending services.
  - Members are also encouraged to tithe via online payments and other digital means.
  - Clergy members are being trained in handling firearms to protect their congregants.
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When churches are targeted by crime in South Africa, it can have significant impacts on churchgoers and the broader community:

- **Fear and Anxiety:**
    - Churchgoers may experience heightened fear and anxiety about attending religious services or participating in church activities.
    - The feeling of vulnerability can linger even after the incident has passed, impacting the sense of safety in the community.
  - **Decreased Attendance:**
    - Incidents of crime targeting churches can lead to a decrease in attendance as individuals may choose to stay away from places they perceive as unsafe.
    - This can have spiritual and social ramifications, as communal worship and support networks may weaken.
  - **Loss of Trust:**
    - Church members may lose trust in the authorities' ability to protect them and their places of worship.
    - This can lead to feelings of abandonment and disillusionment, especially if there is a perceived lack of response or follow-up from law enforcement agencies.
  - **Financial Strain:**
    - Damage or theft resulting from targeted crime can impose financial burdens on churches and their congregations.
    - Repairing or replacing stolen items or damaged property may divert resources from other important initiatives or community services.
  - **Emotional Toll:**
    - Beyond the tangible losses, church members may experience emotional distress, feeling violated or deeply saddened by the desecration of their sacred spaces.
    - This emotional toll can linger long after the physical damage has been repaired.
  - **Community Fragmentation:**
    - Crime targeting churches can fracture the sense of community cohesion and trust among members.
    - Instead of coming together in solidarity, individuals may become more isolated or distrustful of others, which can hinder efforts to address broader social issues.
  - **Impact on Outreach Programs:**
    - Many churches in South Africa are involved in outreach programs aimed at supporting vulnerable populations.
    - Crime targeting churches can disrupt or even halt these programs, depriving communities of much-needed support and resources.
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*Overall, the impact of crime on churchgoers in South Africa extends beyond immediate physical damage or loss. It can erode trust, disrupt community life, and undermine the sense of safety and well-being within congregations.*

*Addressing these challenges requires not only effective law enforcement measures but also broader efforts to address underlying social and economic inequalities that contribute to crime in the first place.*

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**REFERENCES:**

- <https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/bibles-and-bullets-churches-arm-clergymen-as-gunmen-prey-on-congregants-20240404>

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*Specialised Security Services invites the public to the Mike Bolhuis Daily Projects WhatsApp Group.*

*This group is important in delivering insights into the latest crime trends, awareness, warnings and the exposure of criminals.*

## HOW TO JOIN THE MIKE BOLHUIS DAILY PROJECTS WHATSAPP GROUP:

- Simply follow the link to our dedicated WhatsApp group:
  - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Dys4JLOFTXCBgXBdXeEvzU>
- "JOIN" to ensure you never miss our daily updates.
- You will receive automatic notifications as soon as a new project is placed.

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**CONTACT MR MIKE BOLHUIS FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES, PROTECTION, OR AN INVESTIGATION IF NEEDED.**

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***ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENTIALITY AND EVERY IDENTITY WILL BE PROTECTED.***

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Regards,

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**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** All potential clients need to be aware that owing to the nature of our work as specialist investigators there are people who have been caught on the wrong side of the law - who are trying to discredit me - Mike Bolhuis and my organisation Specialised Security Services - to get themselves off the hook.

This retaliation happens on social media and creates doubt about our integrity and ability. Doubt created on social media platforms is both unwarranted and untrue.

We strongly recommend that you make up your minds concerning me and our organisation only after considering all the factual information - to the exclusion of hearsay and assumptions.

Furthermore, you are welcome to address your concerns directly with

me should you still be unsatisfied with your conclusions. While the internet provides a lot of valuable information, it is also a platform that distributes a lot of false information. The distribution of false information, fake news, slander and hate speech constitutes a crime that can be prosecuted by law. Your own research discretion and discernment are imperative when choosing what and what not to believe.

**STANDARD RULES APPLY:** Upon appointment, we require a formal mandate with detailed instructions. Please take note that should you not make use of our services – you may not under any circumstance use my name or the name of my organisation as a means to achieve whatever end.

**POPI ACT 4 of 2013 South Africa:** Mike Bolhuis' "Specialised Security Services" falls under Section 6 of the act. Read more here: <https://mikebolhuis.co.za/popi-act-4-of-2013-section-6-mike-bolhuis/>

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**SSS TASK TEAM:**

<https://mikebh.link/sss-task-team>

**SSS CYBERCRIME UNIT:**

<https://mikebh.link/sss-cyber-team>



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