

Soweto yesterday.
See page 5 PHOTO: SAPS

TEACHER FROM HELL ON THE RUN



Boy burnt with hot knife among 15 who laid charges

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PUPILS NOT SAFE AT SCHOOL

Teacher burns kids with knife

Tebogo Monama, Busisiwe Mokwena and Getrude Makhafola

Their parents sent them to school because they thought it would be safe there – but two of them were taken to a doctor yesterday with bruises and burn marks.

And they are not the only ones who have been hurt at the school.

At least 15 Grade 2 pupils from Letsema Ilima Primary School in Evaton in the Vaal have laid charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm against a female teacher.

Principal Tom Morajane says he knows of more than 19 reported incidents of children being assaulted with an assortment of instruments, including stones, by the teacher.

The children suffered burn wounds after she put a knife in the heater and branded their faces and hands on Friday.

Their crime was failing to give the right answers during a maths lesson.

A pupil said: "We could not figure out maths sums so the teacher put a knife in the heater and used it to burn our faces and

hands. This is not the first time she has punished us.

"Most of the time she throws stones at us, pours hot tea over us and pokes us with needles."

The child's mother said: "What makes us angry is that our children are unsafe at school."

Yesterday she opened a case of assault against the teacher.

Another child told *Sowetan*: "I was scared to tell my parents that the teacher was beating us."

"She sometimes uses a pipe."

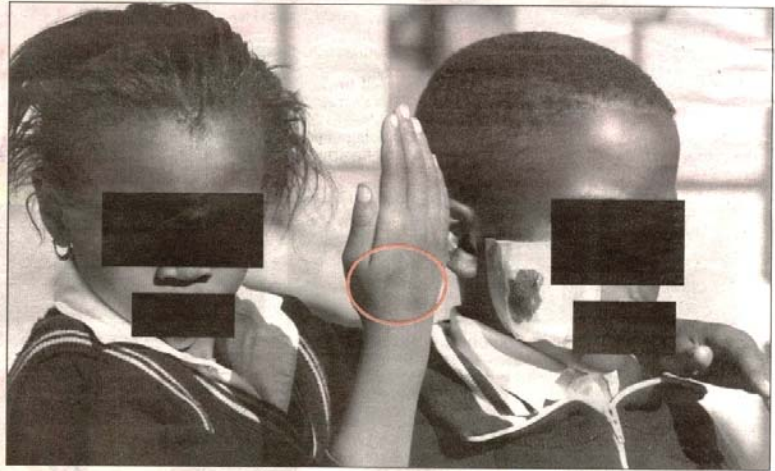
The teacher is now on the run and did not report for duty yesterday.

Police said yesterday that they had raided her home last Friday but did not find her.

Sowetan also learnt that the Emfuleni district education office has since charged her with misconduct and she is expected to respond to the charges within 48 hours.

Democratic Alliance spokesman Hermene Koorts said: "This kind of violence against learners cannot be tolerated."

"The teacher has to be expelled immediately and unions must not get involved. We must always



STICKS AND STONES: A teacher accused of attacking children at school is on the run after about 15 pupils, assisted by their parents and guardians, laid assault charges against her.

PHOTO: ANTONIO MUCHAVE

ensure that our children are safe in schools."

Evaton police spokesman Inspector Molefe Mokoena said that more than 15 pupils, assisted by their parents and guardians, had opened cases of assault with

the intention to do grievous bodily harm.

"We have been looking for the suspect since Saturday and have not located her. She was not home nor was she at work yesterday," Mokoena said.

Gauteng department of education spokesman Nanagolo Leopeng said the department would investigate.

"The department is aware of the incident and the matter is under investigation," he said.

Teacher's cruel punishment

By NTEBATSE MASIPA

DON'T mess with this teacher!

If you don't get her classwork right, you are in deep trouble

This teacher, from Letsema-Ili-ma Primary School in Sebokeng, allegedly tightens electrical cables around the necks of pupils, hits them with stones or pricks their bums with a needle if their school work is not up to standard.

Apparently, this is the kind of treatment grade 2 pupils at this school experience every day.

If they cry, this teacher punishes them more.

mother, said their children had spoken of this teacher's treatment since last year but parents hadn't taken it seriously.

It was only when 23 pupils arrived home with burn marks last Friday that parents decided to take action.

This time the teacher allegedly branded the kids with a hot knife.

One of the victims, [REDACTED] said he did not get his sums right and his teacher put a knife on the heater and switched it on.

He said when the knife got hot, she placed it against his cheeks.

Angry parents approached the principal and on Sunday a meeting was held where parents demanded that the teacher be re-

moved. Parents have reported the matter to the police. The teacher has since disappeared.

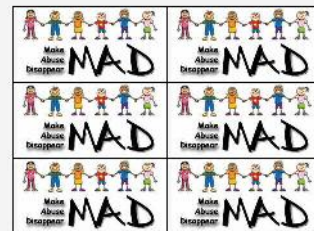
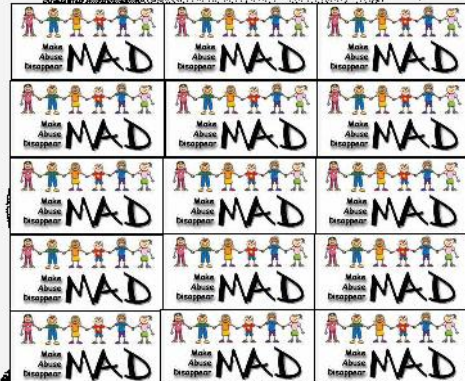
Democratic Alliance councillor Daddy Mollo said the principal had written a report and the teacher had been given 48 hours to respond.

[REDACTED] would not comment because he said he was not allowed to speak to the media.

Nanagolo Leopeng, spokeswoman for the Gauteng Department of Education, said they would open a case of assault against the teacher.



The burn marks on his face are clearly visible.



[REDACTED] with burns on his face and hand.

Photos by Jan Rieft