

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)**

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**Protect courts against contempt of court - CDP**

“Although one may not agree with the change in the sentence of two of the Waterkloof 4, one must not, in the process, ignore an even more worrying aspect – that of contempt of court,” says Christian Democratic Party leader, Rev. Theunis Botha.

“It is even more concerning against the back drop of statements from government officials, including Pres. Jacob Zuma, on the status courts should enjoy in our constitutional democracy. There are clear indications that attempts are being made to reduce the independence of the courts and their role as guardians of the constitution and not mere political rubber stamps.

“It is thus vital that the Department of Correctional Service’s apparent contempt of court should be properly investigated, and a clear rule set out underpinning the importance of this principle – even if one does not agree with a particular court finding -one may then appeal the decision.

“The door cannot be open to any form of anarchy, even if originating from the government itself.”

**Beskerm howe teen minagting van die hof - CDP**

“Al verskil ‘n mens met die wysiging van die vonnisse van twee van die Waterkloof 4, moet ‘n meer kommerwekkende aspek nie uit die oog verloor word nie – dié van minagting van die hof,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Dit is veral kommerwekkend teen die agtergrond van stellings van regerings-ampsbekleërs, waaronder pres. Jacob Zuma, oor welke status die howe in ons grondwetlike demokrasie behoort te geniet. Daar is ‘n duidelike tendens om die onafhanklikheid van die howe en hul taak as bewakers van die grondwet te ondergrawe tot die punt waar hulle politieke rubberstempels gereduseer is.

“Dit is van kardinale belang dat die Departement van Korrektiewe Dienste se klaarblyklike minagting van die hof behoorlik ondersoek sal word en dat ‘n duidelike reël geformuleer word wat hierdie beginsel uitspel – selfs al stem ‘n mens nie met ‘n bepaalde uitspraak saam nie – dan is daar altyd die opsie van appèl.

“‘n Mens kan nie die deur op ‘n skrefie oopmaak vir anargie nie, selfs al kom dit van die regering self af.”