

# War of the websites as opponents vie to defend and attack SA crime

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CAPE TOWN

"I AM going to hire someone to rape your children and your wife."

These were the chilling words that greeted Pieter Boshoff, an IT worker from Cape Town, shortly after the launch of his website, [www.realsouthafrica.co.za](http://www.realsouthafrica.co.za)

He said the first week was marked by "extremely negative responses" capped off by the threatening phone call.

"I knew it was just people trying to get a reaction out of me but it was still a bit scary," he says. So much so that he refuses to have his photograph taken for fear of his life.

"I got lots of racist phone calls with people calling me 'kaffir-boetie' and all sorts of other words I hadn't heard since the '80s," he recalls.

His website was created in opposition to [www.crimexpouthafrica.org](http://www.crimexpouthafrica.org), set up by fellow Capetonian Neil Watson.

An insurance broker from Camps Bay, Watson's website has made headlines on CNN and a myriad of other news websites and newspapers since its launch.

He says he is trying to scare as many tourists as possible away from South Africa and is aggressively marketing the site overseas through embassies, media, political leaders, business personalities, schools and universities.

He hopes to spur the government into action over violent crime through plummeting tourism figures.

Watson said in an interview with Independent Newspapers this week that the website had become so successful, he'd given up his insurance business.

And while people were responding to his call for donations, he denied that he was making money off it. He was, however, receiving enough to pay salaries to the seven people he has employed to run the website, which is hosted in the US.

"I got just enough to cover expenses for the month of July. I am also hoping to get sponsors for the campaigns to follow," Watson says.

He doesn't believe in "going with placards to dance in front of the courts" because the former regime didn't pay any heed when "African people complained like that".

"We must take money away

**'I will come back when the bullets start flying in the civil war, to do my part and rid this land of the likes of the ANC.'**

from this government through discouraging tourism. I hope that will happen, then the campaign will come to an end. It is important for me that they stay away from South Africa, and I am already seeing results," he says.

He adds that he believes he acts on a "mandate" from like-minded people who are "sick and tired" of the high levels of violent crime.

"The government must ask itself, 'What did we do wrong to deserve this?'" Watson says.

Lambasted by people writing in to popular websites, including [www.commentary.co.za](http://www.commentary.co.za), for "pimping advertising space" and not offering any solutions to crime except "leave your grandmother at home as she will be killed with a hammer", the vitriolic comments on Watson's comment pages have also raised more than few eyebrows.

"I am going to America soon," writes one supporter on Watson's website.

"Don't call me a traitor, call me an ambassador of truth. Wherever I go, I will always tell any foreigner I ever meet why I left: because of a spineless fool called Thabo Mbeki's attempts (sic) at what he refers to as 'running a country'."

"I will come back when the bullets start flying in the civil war, to do my part and rid this land of the likes of the ANC."

Another threatens to kill Watson and rape his "moffie father", calling his website an act of treason.

Danie protests about the slogan "One settler, one bullet" proclaiming his to be "One gunship, one township".

Boshoff's less aggressive website, decorated with photographs exemplifying South Africa, the Rainbow Nation, contains an open letter to Watson.

"Do you know that for every eight tourists arriving in South Africa, an additional job will be created? For every job that is not created by turning away tourists, up to six people are deprived of an income.

"By encouraging this you are removing the possibility of a livelihood from an honest hardworking South African and breeding more poverty, hate, resentment and crime," he writes.