

Feb.
2025

NEWSLETTER

Issue
#6

You cannot reverse the effects of crime. Crime cannot be undone...

When The Hunger Monster Turns Into Crime

Let's talk about something serious; keeping our homes and businesses safe. We've spoken about security risks before, but one issue keeps coming up over and over again, *hunger*.

Continue reading on page 2.



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South African Farmers

Another farmer murdered. Another family devastated. Another headline that will fade in a few days.

Continue reading on page 3.



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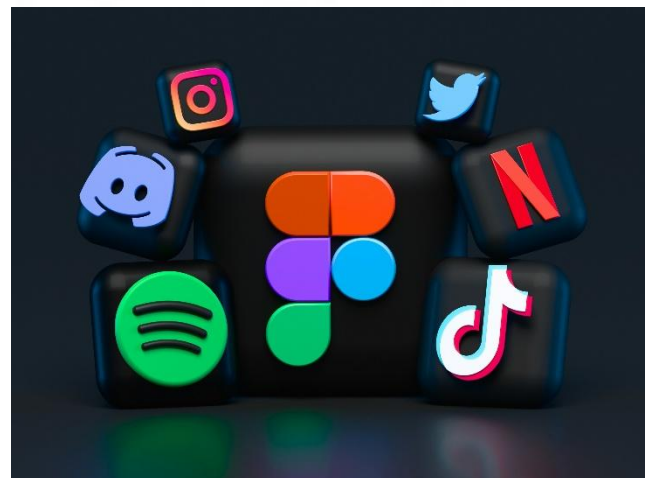


André Mundell, Alwinco, Independent Security Risk Assessor

Social Media Security

Ever stopped to consider that nearly 70% of what you read online is false? That number isn't just a statistic, it's a wake-up call. Social media isn't just a platform for sharing fun moments; it's a minefield of hidden risks. Every post, every picture, and every tag could expose more than you intend. I've seen firsthand how a seemingly innocent image can become a tool for deception. In today's digital world, knowing who you're really interacting with isn't just smart, it's essential.

Continue reading on page 5.



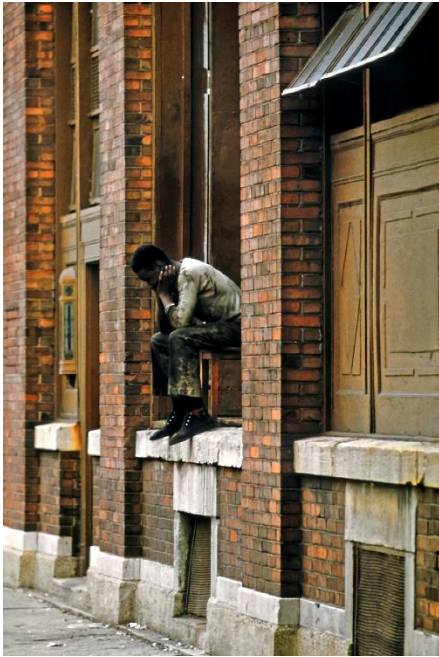
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Right now, a lot of people in South Africa don't have jobs, and life is getting harder every day. The cost of living is rising, and opportunities are shrinking. When people can't afford to feed their families, desperation takes over. And when people are desperate, they do things they never thought they would—like stealing.

I asked 73 ordinary people a difficult question: *If you had nothing, would you steal to feed your family?* Every single one of them said yes. When I reminded them that stealing is against the law, they didn't hesitate. They would do anything to keep their loved ones from starving.

Now, think about this: every

When The Hunger Monster Turns Into Crime

unemployed person is responsible for feeding at least five other people. That means for every one person without a job, five more are struggling. This is the reality we're facing. Desperation leads to crime, and crime leads to a more dangerous society for all of us.

It's not just petty theft anymore. Criminals are getting smarter, and the crimes are becoming more organized. Look at what's happening with generators; huge, expensive pieces of equipment are being stolen using simple tools like hydraulic jacks. People used to think that stealing something so large was impossible. Clearly, it's not. These crimes are happening all around us, and if we don't take security seriously, they will only get worse.

The sad truth is that even law-abiding citizens are playing a role in this crisis. Some homeowners and business owners buy stolen fuel or vehicle parts because they're looking for a cheaper deal. But every time someone supports this illegal market; they encourage more crime.

Corruption is another problem. In many cases, businesses and

government contracts are awarded to people who don't have the right skills. When security is handled by the wrong people, gaps are left open, making it even easier for criminals to operate. These failures create a ripple effect. Bad security leads to more crime, which leads to even worse security.

Some people believe that if things don't change, South Africa could face a real conflict between those who have and those who don't. It might sound extreme, but when I spoke to informants in high-crime areas, they told me the same thing: people are getting angrier, and they are willing to take what they need. When I mentioned that the police or the army would stop them, they laughed. That should worry us all.



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Hunger is not an excuse for crime, but it is a powerful motivator. At first, it starts with stealing food or essentials. But over time, crimes become more violent. That's why we can't afford to ignore the problem. If security is weak, criminals will take advantage of it. If we don't put proper measures in place, we are making it easy for them.

Think of it like a dam holding back a flood. When hunger and desperation build up, that dam weakens. If nothing is done, it will eventually break, and those

South African Farmers

South African farmers face some of the most brutal and calculated attacks in the world, yet many still believe it won't happen to them. They rely on fences, cameras, and armed response, assuming these are enough. But here's the hard truth, security is not about what you have. It's about what criminals see. And right now, they see gaps.

I've walked through crime scenes where survivors asked the same haunting question: **Why us?** The answer is never simple, but one thing is certain criminals knew their weaknesses before they did. Security isn't about luck. It's about strategy, about eliminating risk before it turns into tragedy.

who have nothing will take from those who do. Because they feel they have no other choice.

So, what can we do?

First, we need to stop relying only on the police. Law enforcement alone is not enough. Every homeowner and business owner needs to take responsibility for their security. That means getting an independent security risk assessment. One that looks at the weaknesses in your setup

The real question is: Will you wait until it's too late? Or will you take control before your farm becomes the next headline?

South African Farmers: The Cost of Ignoring Security Risks

The news is filled with reports of farm murders. Despite all the coverage, many farmers fail to prepare adequately. I have assessed numerous farms and have been involved in many crime scene assessments. What remains baffling is the reluctance of South African farmers to take professional security advice. Even doctors, no matter how experienced, consult specialists when needed. In the corporate world, an accounting office requires auditors to ensure compliance.

from a criminal's point of view. A proper risk assessment can help you strengthen your defenses before you become a target.

At the end of the day, crime isn't going away. But by being proactive, we can reduce the risks and protect ourselves from becoming victims. Security is not just about locks and fences. It's about understanding threats, staying aware, and making smart decisions before it's too late.



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Similarly, security policies and measures must be assessed and refined regularly.

South African farmers are known for their resilience and independence, traits that have helped them survive in one of the toughest industries. They trust their instincts, rely on their own judgment, and believe they know their land and its risks better than anyone else. While this self-reliance is admirable, it also creates a dangerous blind spot in security. Many

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farmers assume that because they have security measures in place, they are safe. But security and safety are not the same thing. Having cameras, fences, or guards does not mean all security risks have been assessed, understood, or mitigated. It's like a business relying on bookkeepers but never conducting an audit; critical risks go unnoticed until it's too late.

Farmers often focus on reactive security solutions, such as cameras, alarms, and armed response services, which only come into play once an incident has occurred. What's missing is a proactive approach; an independent security risk assessment that identifies opportunities before criminals exploit them. This urgency cannot be overstated. Farm attacks and murders in South

Africa are rising at an alarming rate. Each year, reports highlight brutal assaults, torture, and killings of farmers and their families. Criminals are more violent, more organized, and more relentless than ever before. These are not opportunistic crimes; they are well-planned and often involve inside information about the farm's security risks.

Yet, despite this growing crisis, many farmers refuse to acknowledge that their current security measures may not be enough. They believe that because nothing has happened yet, nothing will. But that mindset has cost many their safety, their assets, and, in many cases, their lives. A farm attack isn't just a robbery; it's a targeted, often brutal act that leaves lasting trauma and devastation. Hoping for the best is not a strategy.

An independent security risk assessor does not sell security products or promote a specific service. Their role is purely to assess security risks objectively, providing risk-specific solutions that eliminate threats rather than just respond to them. They assess every aspect of the farm's security, from perimeter weaknesses to access control, and even human factors that could compromise safety. Ignoring security risks doesn't make them disappear; it only makes the farm an easier target. Farmers must stop relying solely on what they think is secure and seek professional, independent assessments to protect their families, workers, and livelihoods. Just as a company needs an audit to ensure financial stability, a farm needs an independent security risk assessment to ensure survival. The choice is simple: act now or wait until it's too late.

But when it comes to farmers, very few are willing to listen. Before I go any further, I understand that a farm is private property. Law-abiding people respect this, but criminals do not. They disregard rules and boundaries entirely. Like cancer, they exist only to consume and destroy. You cannot reason with such a threat.

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This reminds me of a story, one I think we should call **Chase the Snake**. A man was bitten by a snake. Instead of going to a doctor for medical help, he became fixated on catching the snake, seeking revenge on the creature that had harmed him. In the end, even when he finally caught the snake, it was too late to seek medical help. And sometimes, I think our farmers do the same; they chase the snake instead of focusing on what truly matters.

The head of a family has a duty to protect their loved ones, but it must be done within the law.

The reality is that criminals don't care about the law. In ancient times, when the Roman Empire ruled much of the world, ordinary people had little say. I believe that we, as South Africans, find ourselves in a similar situation today.

I ask farmers reading this not to take offense but to reflect. Are you chasing the snake? Or are you choosing to protect your family? And most importantly, are you willing to listen to a different type of advice; a new way to ensure security in the 21st century?

Social Media Security

We're not just talking about the obvious dangers. Picture this: an image meant for family and friends falling into the wrong hands, or a casual post unintentionally revealing your location. The consequences can be immediate and severe. That's why it's crucial to take proactive steps, review your privacy settings, think twice before sharing sensitive details, and always verify the people behind the screen.

Ready to navigate these digital dangers with confidence? Let's dive into practical strategies to safeguard your personal and professional life online.

Social media platforms like

Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), and even TikTok present a way for people to easily connect. However, do you know who exactly you're speaking to?

With the help of AI and filters, it's very easy to deceive people online. A 13-year-old girl may believe she is speaking to another 13-year-old girl, but in reality, it's a 50-year-old man trying to coax her into sending him explicit photos to pleasure himself, sell to other like-minded individuals, or use them to blackmail her.

Even proud parents and grandparents posting pictures of a baby put them in a position

of being misused by paedophiles. Similarly, these photos can be used for their own pleasure or sold to others. **For this reason, I always ask parents and grandparents why they advertise their kids.**



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If you had the same experience I've gained through working with risk assessments in the security field, you would never post a picture of your children online. However, I understand you would like to share special moments with family and friends, so make sure to utilise privacy settings to make sure only people you know are able to view these images.

This type of action isn't only limited to children; you may believe you are posting an innocent photo of yourself in a bikini, but it can be used by someone else in the same malicious way. Even posting a photo at a party and tagging your friends can cause harm.

Anyone can pretend to be someone they're not in an attempt to gain your trust and manipulate you into sharing sensitive information. This can either be your personal information in an attempt to use it against you or, for example, taking our party photo into consideration, they can pretend to be a friend of one of the people you tagged in the photo, saying something like they're an old friend that lost their number or they want to arrange a surprise party at their house and want to make sure what their address is. Considering they have spoken to you for a while and built some sort of trust, you will most

likely share this information, potentially putting that person in grave danger.

While popularity is a driving force in society, adding as many friends as possible online isn't always a wise decision. It's best to connect only with people you actually know, as a stranger's intentions may not always be genuine. This further highlights the importance of adjusting your privacy settings to allow only friends to view your posts to help protect your personal information.

The internet has many hidden risks, making it crucial to be mindful of what you share. Posting your location or even an identifiable background in a photo can give ill-intentioned individuals an easy way to track you. Something as minor as a visible license plate in the background of an image could be misused if it falls into the wrong hands.

Personal information should remain private. Even the smallest detail shared online can be exploited in ways you might not anticipate. In today's digital world, your online presence can even impact job opportunities. What you post reflects who you are, and if a potential employer sees that you frequently party, they may hesitate to hire you, fearing it could affect your performance.

After all, showing up to work hungover wouldn't exactly set you up for success, would it?

On the other hand, you should be mindful when taking job offers into consideration presented to you by a stranger online. This most often comes in the form of a modelling test photoshoot. I would obviously advise not to fall for these tricks in the first place, but if you need to go for some reason, it is wise to share a live location and take someone with you. You should never do business with someone online without doing research, as around 70% of information online is false. When you see a car being sold at a very low price and think to yourself it's too good to be true, it most likely is.

Even if you did end up successfully purchasing a new car, remember that posting an image thereof is seen as an advertisement to a criminal. If they know you have a new car, TV, or whatever the case may be, you automatically get added to their list of potential victims.

It is extremely important to be careful when it comes to social media. In some cases, you may be posting something as a joke that ends terribly not just for yourself but can potentially stretch to loved ones who were involved in the process.