DNA Bill ‘brings justice’

But doubts on forensics labs’ capabilities

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IT HAS been almost six years since Diana Thomson’s son Mike was murdered in front of his wife and three children by the Razor Gang — but the family is still waiting for justice.

Thomson has been pushing for the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill, commonly known as the DNA Bill, to be passed so that her son’s death will not have been in vain.

“When my son was murdered there was no preservation of evidence at all. “[The Razor Gang] have been in prison but have not been brought to trial because of insufficient evidence,” said Thomson.

The bill proposes that it be mandatory that arrested suspects, and the convicted, submit to DNA sampling.

The DNA signatures obtained from the samples would be stored in the national forensic DNA database.

“Currently we have 180 000 profiles on our database.

This legislation will enable us to increase the size of our database and use it as a criminal-intelligence tool,” said Vanessa Lynch, executive director of the DNA Project.

David Klatzow, a private consulting forensic scientist, said that the current forensic system was flawed and undermanned.

“There isn’t a single fully accredited forensic laboratory in South Africa,” he said.