Campuses increase security after incidents of rape

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UNIVERSITIES around the country are increasing security after a series of rapes. Most recently, a 20-year-old student at Stellenbosch University was raped on Saturday April 2 while in a parking lot between two university residences.

In the past three months there have been six attacks in or around South African university campuses.

Four of the attacks took place near the Rhodes Memorial at the UCT while the other two attacks took place at Stellenbosch University near residences.

One man has since been arrested for the four rapes at UCT whilst another has been arrested for the most recent attack.

Stellenbosch University said in a statement after the attack: “Rape is an appalling and despicable crime and being part of communities where rape incidences are a too-common experience is deeply disturbing.”

After the incidents occurred, both the UCT and the Stellenbosch University have taken steps to increase security around their campuses in order to ensure there are no more attacks.

“Wits has security measures in place to ensure that victims feel safe on campus”

Following the latest rape incident, Stellenbosch University instituted a special task team to combat what it termed “rape culture” on campuses as well as to provide further safety recommendations.

Wits has security measures in place to ensure that victims feel safe on campus and also offers a security escort service for students who plan to be on campus late at night.

The university also says it has panic buttons (identified by an orange panel) all around the campus that can be used in the event of an emergency.

Students who experience any form of sexual harassment can report it to the Wits Gender Equity Office (011 717 0990) or Campus Control (011 717 4444/6666).

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