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IEC slams staff death threats

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CAPE TOWN – The Independent Electoral Commission yesterday hit out at death threats, which have led to the registrations of a local electoral officer and six of his IEC staffers, all Muslims who were employed in the Cape Town area

Western Cape chief electoral officer Courtney Sampson conceded that the threats could have been prompted by calls from the Islamic Unity Convention (IUC) that Muslims abstain from voting in the June 2 elections but was reluctant to attribute any specific cause.

The IEC was investigating reports that another 20 resignations of Muslims were pending but had been able to verify only seven.

Mr Sampson said the issue was “very sensitive” and the IEC would leave it up to individuals to go to the police because “We don’t want to politicise something that affects personal lives”.

IUC vice-chairman Ganief Hendricks rejected “any implication” that the IUC had had anything to do with the seven resignations.

MUSLIMS MUST TAKE PART: PAGE 6