

Bail granted in shooting case

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A University of Namibia (Unam) lecturer, who allegedly shot and wounded two brothers last December, has been granted bail of N\$10 000 by the Rundu Magistrate's Court.

Nelson Antonio (45), who works at Unam's Rundu campus, was granted bail by Magistrate Sonia Samupofu following a successful High Court appeal.

The matter was postponed to 20 June for the prosecutor-general's decision as to whether Antonio should be prosecuted or not. Antonio appealed to the High Court after Magistrate Hellen Olaiya rejected his initial bail application on 21 December 2018.

Antonio is charged with two counts of attempted murder. He allegedly emptied an entire magazine and wounded Moses and Gerson Batista, who are both 25 years old, on 3 December in Rundu's Kehemu location. The two victims are related to Antonio's ex-girlfriend and were driving her car at the time. Antonio is also charged with discharging a firearm in public and with malicious damage to property.

Antonio claims that he acted in

self-defence. He testified during the bail hearing that he was sitting in his car when three men, including the two victims, pulled him out of the car and assaulted him.

He said he fired warning shots into the air, but had to shoot at the victims as one of them was on his way to their car to get a panga.

Antonio also testified that he has ten children, five of whom were living with him at the time and needed him to care for them. The State had opposed bail because of the seriousness of the offences and concerns that Antonio might interfere with the investigation.



OUT ON BAIL: Nelson Antonio is accused of attempted murder.

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