what happened at Marikana on 16 August 2012?
CityPress newspaper’s view
Strikers were surrounded by heavily armed police and soldiers, and killed while fleeing from gunfire. The state forces were not “protecting themselves”. They participated in well-organised, premeditated slaughter.

We interviewed surviving miners and looked at physical evidence on the site of the massacre. What we found is even more shocking than the story presented in the media, even here in South Africa. Follow numbered events on the map above.

1: On the day of the killing about 3,000 striking miners were gathered on and just below the “mountain” (actually a small hill). Joseph Mathunjwa, president of their union, the AMCU, came and pleaded with them to leave to avoid a police attack. The miners refused.

2: Within 15 minutes of Mathunjwa leaving, the police and army laid razor wire, separating the strikers from the Enkanini informal settlement, where many of them live. Casspirs (armoured cars), horses and water cannon moved up to encircle the workers.

3: Some workers walked down to the razor wire to see if they could still get out through a gap. Witnesses say police near the “small koppie” (hillock) opened fire on them, probably with rubber bullets. Some workers fled through a five metre gap in the razor wire. They were met with a barrage of live fire from the police and many died. Images of this shooting were broadcast around the world.

4: Terrified strikers scattered in all directions, with a large number heading for cover by a koppie about 300 metres in the opposite direction from the wire. This “killing koppie” is where the largest number of strikers died. No cameras recorded this slaughter. But evidence remained on Monday, four days after the massacre. There are remnants of pools of blood. Police markers show where corpses were removed. We found markers labelled with letters up to ‘J’.

5-8: Other strikers were killed as they fled across the fields. Some examples are marked on the map. Shots were fired from helicopters and some workers, heading for hillock, were crushed by Casspirs.

By Monday the whole area had been swept clean of rubber bullets, bullet casings and tear-gas canisters. We also saw patches of burned grass, which local workers claim are the remains of police fires used to obscure evidence of deaths.
WHAT DO YOU WANT IN OUR HUSBANDS IN LONMIN?
I HATE YOU POLICE.
PLATINUM PRICE RISES ON SUPPLY FEARS AS MINERS CRASH

The spot price of platinum in US$/ounce started rising sharply on fears of a decline in supply shortly after the strike at Lonmin’s Marikana mine began, and climbed steeply through last Thursday’s shootings at the mine that left 34 workers dead.

The market value of platinum mining shares continued to decline, showing further weakness after the shootings.

Aug 8: Poor earnings hit Aquarius and Impala shares
Aug 9: HSBC cuts 2013 platinum forecast $200 to $1,625/oz
Aug 14: Death toll at Lonmin reaches nine
Eastern Platinum reports $85m loss
Aug 15: Lonmin CEO Ian Farmer in hospital with “serious illness”
Aug 16: Police open fire on miners at Marikana, capturing global attention.
Loss of life reaches 44

Source: I-Net Bridge