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Sasol sabotage ups security call

Staff Reporter

THE sabotage of the Sasol I and Natref refineries in Sasolburg has brought about an immediate demand for more sophisticated security from South Africa's industrial sector.

Mr Roy Macfarlane, the chairman of Fidelity Guards, said that in the past clients had been satisfied with unarmed guards, but they were now looking for a more sophisticated type of service.

He said there had been an "amazing" number of requests from clients who had wanted security manpower on their premises doubled following the blasts at Sasolburg.

These requests, Mr Macfarlane said, had come predominantly from sections of industry involved in fuel storage,

chemical research, drugs and weapons.

Mr John McBrearty, the managing director of Shield Security, said the Sasolburg explosions had made the industrial sector realise the security it had been using was no longer adequate.

"All of a sudden they are telling us what we told them six months ago," Mr McBrearty said, adding that his clients now wanted armed white superiors to control and back up black guards.

Mr John Hammill, security manager for Pritchard Guards, said most of his company's clients had already starting taking extra precautions when the school riots erupted in the Cape last month.

"Sasol is just another nail in the coffin," he said.