

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: DESERVED SENTENCE FOR SEXUAL & PHYSICAL ABUSE

A 31 year-old man, Sibusiso Mnisi was sentenced to 3 life terms plus 14 years by the Protea Magistrates Court on Monday, 21 September 2015.

Mnisi was convicted on 3 counts of rape, assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, kidnapping and compelling children to watch the commission of a sexual act on 4 August 2015. For each count of rape Mnisi got life sentence.

Rape carries a minimum of life sentence when committed in circumstances involving the infliction of grievous bodily harm. In this case, the accused assaulted and raped the victim.

The court heard how Mnisi grabbed his ex-girlfriend (the complainant) as she went out to fetch water and forced her to his place. He brutally assaulted her with fists, kicking her and used a bike helmet to hit her over the head. He left her there badly injured and went to fetch their children. He made the children stand against the wall and proceeded to rape their mother in front of them. He kept her hostage for 3 days raping her 2 more times and refusing her medical attention for the injuries he had caused.

The accused has numerous previous convictions of assault and arson, most of which were against the same complainant. The accused is currently also serving an 8 year sentences for arson and attempted murder wherein he tried to kill the complainant and their children by setting her house on fire whilst they were inside.

After his conviction he jumped out of the dock and assaulted the victim in court. He grabbed her by the hair and pulled out her braids and also assaulted her. Due to this incident the state requested the accused to be profiled by clinical psychologist Brigadier Gerhard Labuschagne. He compiled a report after interviewing the accused several times and came to the conclusion that the accused is a psychopath, has an antisocial personality disorder and is a serial arsonist.

State Prosecutor, Inge Vogelpath argued that in cases of abusive nature involving psychopaths, our courts must impose harsh sentences that will deter the public from undermining human dignity and others' rights. Due to the profiling of the accused, his violent nature and his fixation with the complainant the state argued that the accused ought to be removed from society as he poses a real threat to the complainant and society.

The NPA urges all members of society to take action and ensure that such abusive partners are dealt with in accordance to the rule of law. Society must strive to protect children from exposure to violent and unhealthy upbringings.

The NPA remains committed to delivering justice so that people can live free from fear and feel safe.

Kind Regards,

Hurbetin Phindi Louw
Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng
0112204245/0834024787
hlouw@npa.gov.za