

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: 22 YEAR SENTENCE INCREASES TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT AFTER APPEAL

The North Gauteng High Court dismissed an appeal in a rape and assault case against a Middelburg couple who were sentenced to 22 years direct imprisonment, after the father was convicted for raping his daughters who were between the ages of 4 – 8 years. The accused was sentenced as follows; on each count of rape, 22 years imprisonment and 6 months imprisonment on the count of assault wholly suspended for 3 years.

The mother was further convicted for the Contravention of the Provisions of Section 54(1) Act 32 of 2007, for failing to report to the relevant authorities the rape of the children by their father. She was then sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, wholly suspended for 4 years.

The duo lodged an appeal against their convictions and sentences. The state brought an application to appeal against the sentence imposed on the rape counts. On appeal, their convictions were confirmed and they were successful on the appeal against the sentences imposed. The sentences on each of the rape counts were set aside and substituted with a sentence of life imprisonment each.

The state was led by the Acting Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Advocate Frederik Van de Merwe who argued that the fact that the accused were first time offenders and awaiting trial for more than 3 years was not compelling in order to deviate from the prescribed sentences of life imprisonment. He also argued that the sentences imposed by the trial court were shockingly inappropriate.

Kind Regards,

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