

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 20 MAY 2020

RE: CO-ACCUSED PLEADS GUILTY TO DEFAMATION AFTER SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEO

Yesterday, Sara Banu Ishwarlall pleaded guilty in the Durban Regional Court to the kidnapping, assault and criminal defamation of a 52-year-old woman in Chatsworth, May last year.

Ishwarlall's friend and co accused, Samadhanum Jane Andrew pleaded guilty to the same counts in March 2020. The complainant was in a relationship with Andrew's boyfriend. Andrew discovered the affair and decided to attack the complainant, enlisting the assistance of Ishwarlall. Andrew and Ishwarlall accosted the complainant, forced her into a car and took her to Ishwarlall's house where they assaulted her and cut off portions of her hair. They filmed this interrogation and posted it on social media. The post went viral.

In court, Regional Court Prosecutor, Sureka Marimuthu handed in a Victim Impact Statement, compiled by the complainant and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Nondumiso Nyembe. The complainant mentioned that this ordeal caused her immense embarrassment. She and her family had to refrain from going out into society as the community mocked and humiliated them.

The court sentenced Ishwarlall to a fine of R20 000 or six years imprisonment, wholly suspended for a period of three years on condition that she is not convicted of the same offence during the period of suspension. She was ordered to submit a written apology to the complainant and compensate her with R5 000.

In welcoming the conviction, the Director of Public Prosecutions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Advocate Elaine Zungu said, "The complainant suffered humiliation not only at the hands of the accused but also on social media, where the video went viral. Matters of a similar

nature are becoming prevalent and we hope that the like-minded individuals take note of the court's response. Congratulations to the officials involved in this successful finalisation."

Natasha Kara

Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN

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