

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 25 MAY 2020**

**RE: JEWELLERY STORE ROBBERS CONVICTED**

Last week, Zahida Rahaman and Mohamed Bilal Sheik were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment each in the Durban Regional Court, for the April 2013 robbery of an upmarket jewellery store in the Gateway shopping centre.

Rahaman, a staff member at the store, was in a relationship with Sheik. In preparation for the robbery, she provided him with a duplicate key to the store. On the night of the robbery, she turned off the in-store cameras and Sheik arranged for his stepbrother, Imtiaz Hoosen; and another accomplice to rob the store under the guise of doing after-hour renovations. They stole wristwatches, timepieces, diamond jewellery and R500 000 in cash. In haste, they left the shop door open and this caused a passer-by to raise the alarm.

Rahaman was arrested shortly after and her co-accused were arrested the following day. They delayed trial proceedings by bringing various applications before the court and eventually absconded from court in 2018. Hoosen was arrested earlier this year and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

Rahaman and Sheik were arrested in East London last week and brought back to court. They were sentenced to an effective 15 years imprisonment each. Prosecutor, Joel Kisten successfully finalised this matter.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Advocate Elaine Zungu welcomes the sentence. She said, "The accused broke her employer's trust and 'bit the hand that fed her;' by participating in this offence. We hope the sentence will have the necessary deterrent effect. Congratulations to the officials involved in this successful prosecution."

**Natasha Kara**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP KZN**

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