

Media Statement



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TO : ALL MEDIA

DATE : 28 FEBRUARY 2018

RE : NEIGHBOUR SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR THE RAPE OF A MINOR

The Burgersfort Regional Court sentenced a man aged 29 of Ditwebeleng village to life imprisonment for the rape of a 10 year-old girl. The accused cannot be named in order to protect the complainant's identity.

The crime was committed on 21 November 2015. The complainant was out in the neighbourhood playing with other children. The accused, a well-known neighbour of the complainant, arrived and requested the complainant to accompany him to his girlfriend's place. They arrived to a deserted house. The accused entered through the door and instructed the complainant to enter through the window.

Once inside, he instructed the complainant to undress and proceeded to have sexual intercourse with her three times. After satisfying himself, he accompanied the complainant home to her mother and sister who were anxiously looking for her. Upon arrival, the complainant reported the incident to her mother. When confronted by the mother about the incident he denied the allegations. The complainant was then taken to hospital and the medical examination confirmed that she was sexually violated. The accused was arrested.

During trial, the accused pleaded not guilty and denied the allegations against him. The court rejected his defence and found him guilty as charged.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor, Ntuweleni Tshikotshi submitted the Victim Impact Report explaining how the incident had left the complainant with the stigma of being mocked by her friends calling her "the accused's wife." He further stated that the incident had a negative impact on the complainant's quality of life as she started to live in isolation far away from people. He emphasised that the crime was gruesome as she

was raped multiple times. He Further submitted that the accused breached the trust that the complainant had in him. Lastly, he pleaded with the court to impose a life sentence.

The court rejected the accused's mitigating factors and agreed with the state and imposed a life sentence. The court further ordered the accused's names to be included in the National Register of Sex Offenders in terms of Section 50(2) of the Sexual Offences Act 32 of 2007.

The NPA welcomes the sentence.

Kind Regards,

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