

PRESS RELEASE



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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 24 JUNE 2020

RE: RADOVAN KREJCIR'S FORMER GIRLFRIEND SENTENCED

A 40 year old woman, Marissa Anne Christopher, was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment with an option of a fine of R80 000 for defeating the ends of justice, unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition by the Regional Court in Kempton Park yesterday.

She entered into a Plea and Sentence Agreement with the state and on behalf of the state, prosecutor Acting Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Advocate Jacob Serepo, submitted factors the court should consider when passing sentence. These were, the seriousness of the offences, the mitigating and aggravating circumstances, substantial and compelling circumstances as well as the interest of justice and that of society.

Christopher was arrested and charged together with seven other people after an intelligence driven operation foiled Radovan Krejcir's plan to escape from Zonderwater Correctional facility in March 2016.

She was charged with five counts of conspiracy to commit an offence, aiding an escape from lawful custody, corruption, defeating the ends of justice, unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition.

The state decided to withdraw other charges against her after entering into the plea and sentence agreement. Only three accused remain in the case, Krejcir, Marcello Harrison (former correctional officer) and Sandile Mdumbe (who arranged the safe house in Mamelodi where Krejcir was going to be kept after his escape).

In her plea explanation, Christopher detailed that she was romantically involved with Krejcir at the time of his arrest. She further stated that during her visits to Krejcir, who is

-serving a 35 years' imprisonment term for attempted murder and kidnapping, he informed her of his plans to escape and wanted her to flee with him. Thus, assisting him in avoiding detection by authorities. In relation to unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition, the plea explains that, she lived with Krejcir at the time of his arrest and before he was apprehended, she noticed him hiding something in the garden. She later investigated and found that it was a firearm loaded with ammunition. She then took the firearm into her possession until it was fetched by a man sent by Krejcir.

Regional Magistrate Veena Krishna confirmed the sentence as proposed in the plea and sentence agreement and directed Christopher accordingly.

The matter continues against the remaining accused on 24 June 2020 in the Kempton Park Regional Court.

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