

Media Statement



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TO: ALL MEDIA

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RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE

Last week, the Mqanduli Regional Court sentenced Avela Maquma (26) to life imprisonment after he was convicted of raping his 15 year-old clan cousin on New Year's eve in 2015.

According to evidence presented in court, the rapist and the victim are both from Ngcanasini Village in the district of Mqanduli and their mothers belong to the Bhayi clan, and thus considered one another cousins. On 31 December 2015, Maquma called the teenage victim to a tavern at which he was consuming liquor. When the victim arrived, he told her that he wanted to have sex with her, threatening to kill her if she refused. The rapist's younger brother arrived and the victim told him what was happening and he tried to intervene. But the rapist took out a knife and threatened to stab his younger brother and he ran away. He then dragged his victim to his homestead where he raped her several times.

On the following day, the victim reported the rape to her sister, who confirmed the victim's version of events with that of the rapist's brother, and they opened the case with the police. During the trial, Maquma pleaded not guilty, denying ever having sexual intercourse with the victim. However, state witnesses called by Prosecutor Melikhaya Dyakopu and a medical report convinced the court that he is guilty as charged.

The National Prosecuting Authority welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to like-minded rapists.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali
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