

Media Statement



Tel: +27 12 845 6000

Email:
media@npa.gov.za

Victoria & Griffiths
Mxenge Building
123 Westlake Avenue
Weavind Park
Silverton
Pretoria

www.npa.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 18 APRIL 2018

RE: RAPIST SENTENCED TO LIFE

Last week, the Mqanduli Regional Court sentenced Totwana Gogogo (31) to life imprisonment after he was convicted of raping a 16 year-old girl two years ago.

According to evidence presented in court, the teenage victim was walking with her 10 year-old brother to a bus stop at Xhorana Location in the district of Mqanduli on 21 June 2016 when they came across Gogogo, who instructed her to come with him. When the girl refused, the rapist forcefully dragged her to his home, in the same village. He threatened the victim and her younger brother, who tried to intervene, with a knife, and the young boy ran away. On arrival at his homestead, Gogogo raped the victim a number of times.

When the victim arrived at her home, she reported the rape. During trial, the state called the victim's brother who confirmed that he saw Gogogo pulling his sister by force and had told him to keep quiet or he would kill him when he, the young boy, tried to intervene. The rapist pleaded not guilty claiming the sexual intercourse was consensual and even called three witnesses in his defence. Under cross-examination by Regional Court Prosecutor, Melikaya Dyakopu, all the defence witnesses conceded that, they were not there during the rapes.

In aggravation of sentence, the state led the evidence of the victim who told the court that she had stopped going to some parts of her village because she was scared and ashamed because people were blaming her for what happened to her.

Regional Court Magistrate, Bonginkosi Mene, concurred with the state's submission that the only fitting sentence for the crime, which is very prevalent in the Mqanduli area, was life imprisonment.

The NPA welcomes the sentence with the hope that it will serve as a deterrent to like-minded rapists who intend targeting defenceless women and children.

Kind Regards,

Luxolo Tyali

Regional Spokesperson: DPP Mthatha

Enquiries: lttyali@npa.gov.za

047 502 2630