

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

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RE: TWO LIFE TERMS AND FIFTEEN YEARS FOR ROBBERY, RAPE & MURDER OF TEENAGE JOGGER

Howard Oliver was sentenced to two life sentences and 15 years last week after the Western Cape High Court convicted him for the murder of Franziska Blochlinger, two counts of rape and robbery with aggravating circumstances. The court sentenced him to life imprisonment for murder, life imprisonment for the two counts of rape taken together for purposes of sentence and fifteen years for the robbery with aggravating circumstances.

The robbery with aggravating circumstances, rape and murder of Franziska Blochlinger is one of the cases against women and children which have been plaguing this province for a period and which shocked many because of its brutality. Franziska was grabbed on broad daylight while jogging in the popular Tokai Forest while her mother was following her walking the family dog.

In his admissions in court, the 28 year-old father of two daughters told the court that he grabbed the 16 year-old from behind and went for her neck so as to prevent her from making noise and from running away. As a result of the huge amount of force he used, he fractured her hyoid bone in the neck.

After she lost consciousness, he dragged her body into the fynbos nearby causing abrasions on the body. He dragged her deep into the forest so that no one could see them. He then removed her cellphone, earphones and the finger ring. He then tied her with her shoe laces around her hands and mouth and raped her. He placed her body and head into the sand and as a result she inhaled sand and blood into her lungs.

Oliver then walked away with the deceased Apple iPhone, gold ring with diamonds and a set of earphones. Just after conviction which took place on 01 June 2017, Oliver wrote a

letter 'from the bottom of my heart' to the parents of the deceased, communities of Tokai, Constantia and the world asking for forgiveness. "I don't know what evil spirit came over me. While I was lying in my cell, I prayed about this happening and the Lord spoke to me and told me to confess, repent and speak the truth and write this letter." He ended the letter with 'Amen'.

Advocate Lenro Badenhorst didn't buy this and said, "A few weeks ago this accused came to this court wearing a Muslim hat. Today he is a Christian. During his bail application the accused pointed fingers at other accused persons. He even indicated that he was threatened in the cells, he considered committing suicide and that he did not commit the crime. He pleaded not guilty. This accused has not shown any remorse for the heinous crimes he committed. There is no explanation of what caused him to embark into this ghastly mistake he says he made. Remorse must be sincere and show that one accepts guilt."

Badenhorst said the accused only changed his mind after the state called 14 witnesses, DNA evidence made available to him and the state's case weighing heavily on him.

Oliver had ten previous convictions that include possession of drugs for which he was fined, stolen property, robbery & theft and assault.

The NPA welcomes the sentence and hope that its sends a clear message that the NPA will continue prioritising cases of this nature by allocating them to senior and experienced prosecutors who will not only ensure a successful prosecution but also long prison terms.

Kind Regards,

Eric Ntabazalila
National Prosecuting Authority
Regional Communications Manager
Western Cape
Tel: (021) 487 7308 Mobile: 073 062 1222
Email: entabazalila@npa.gov.za