



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN SISTEMA JUDISIÁRIU

***Press Release***

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**Suai District Court tries four different cases in one day**

On 17 January 2012 the Suai District Court tried four different cases in one day. These cases were registered respectively as No. 74/PEN/2011/TDS involving domestic violence, No. 92/PEN/2011/TDS involving light maltreatment, No. 76/PEN/2009/TDS involving murder and No. 116/PEN/2009/TDS involving sexual assault against a minor.

Of these four cases, the one involving light maltreatment was concluded with the announcement of a final decision by the court which handed down a suspended sentence of six months imprisonment against the defendant which was substituted with a fine of US\$ 3 per day for a period of 6 months. Trials in the other three cases are still ongoing.

The Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, stated that JSMP respects the court actors who have demonstrated their commitment and good will on a daily basis through the work that they have performed. This is a positive step forward, and the achievements and performance of the courts over the last few years should be respected and valued.

Based on JSMP monitoring, the trial convened for the announcement of a decision in the case involving light maltreatment was presided over by single judge Costâncio Barros Basmery. The public prosecution service was represented by António Tavares da Silva and the defendant was represented by Marçal Mascarenhas from the Public Defender's Office.

After considering all of the evidence presented during the trial, the court found the defendants QC, AMC and RF guilty of committing the crime charged by the public prosecutor.

Article 145.1 of the Penal Code on simple offences against physical integrity states that "Any person who causes harm to the body or health of another person is punishable with up to 3 years imprisonment or a fine".

In relation to the aforementioned process and facts the court decided to sentence the defendants to a suspended sentence of six months imprisonment, which was substituted with a fine of US\$ 3 per day until the six month probationary period expires.

The trial of Case No. 74/PEN/2011/TDS involving domestic violence was also dealt with by a single judge. The trial was presided over by Florença Freitas, while the public prosecution service was represented by António Tavares da Silva and the defendant was represented by

Marçal Macarenhas from the Public Defender's Office. The incident was allegedly committed by the defendant JG against his partner GG.

Also, the trial of Case No.116/PEN/2009/TDS involving sexual assault was presided over by singly judge Florença Freitas. The public prosecution service was represented by António Tavares da Silva and the defendant was represented by Marçal Macarenhas from the Public Defender's Office. The incident was allegedly committed by the defendant MB against the victim PDJ who was a minor.

The trial of Case No.76/PEN/2011TDS involving murder was presided over by a panel of judges comprising Alvaro Maria Freitas (presiding judge), Costânção Barros Basmery and Florença Freitas. The public prosecution service was represented by António Tavares da Silva and the defendant was represented by Marçal Mascarenhas. The incident was allegedly committed by defendant CdC against the deceased Mateus de Aurujo.

JSMP continues to encourage the court actors to keep up the good work and performance that they have shown recently. JSMP hopes that their commitment and effort can reduce the backlog of cases which has been an issue of ongoing concern for the public.

Although the judicial institutions continue to face a range of obstacles in terms of human resources and supporting facilities, as well as infrastructure that is far from adequate, JSMP is certain that our judicial authorities will not lose their motivation to serve as professionals and to do everything possible to ensure that the courts continue to function and respond to public expectations of justice in this nation.

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