



*Press Release*

*Oe-Cusse District Court*

**31 March 2015**

**Oe-Cusse District Court sentences defendant to 3 years and 6 months in prison in case of simple assault and kidnapping**

On 27 March 2015, the Oe-Cusse District Court sentenced the defendant DMO for committing simple offences against the physical integrity (simple assault) of three victims PT, PTS and ABC. In addition to committing simple assault against the victims, the court found the defendant guilty of kidnapping the victim PT.

Based on the existing evidence, the court sentenced the defendant to 2 years in prison for the simple assault of the victim PT. In relation to the simple assault of PTS, the court sentenced the defendant to 1 year in prison, and 6 months in prison for the simple assault of ABC.

For the crime of kidnapping the victim PT, the court imposed a sentence of 1 year in prison. After evaluating the sentence in each case, the court concluded the matter and sentenced the defendant to an effective term of 3 years and 6 months in prison.

“This decision reflects the seriousness of each of the cases because the convicted person committed offences against 4 different people, comprising two types of crime. JSMP hopes that this decision can be used as a reference for the community to manage their problems and to seek non-violent approaches,” said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

The court found that on 3 June 2014, at approximately 4:30pm, the defendant was drunk and punched the victim PTS twice in the mouth, and once above the eye. These acts caused the victim to suffer an injury to his mouth and swelling above his eye.

After the incident, the victim came home and told his father (PT). When he heard this information, at some point in the evening, the victims PT, ABC (his son in law) and DP (another relative) went to the home of the defendant with the intention of seeking an explanation for the defendant’s behaviour. However, when they arrived at the defendant’s house, it was actually the defendant who asked the victims why they had come to his house to make trouble with him.

After making this statement, the defendant punched ABC once on the back of the neck

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and punched the victim PT once in the forehead, which caused PT to fall to the floor inside the defendant's home. After that the defendant locked the victim PT inside his house for approximately 4 hours and the other victims fled.

After four hours, the PNTL came to the defendant's home and took the victim PT to the hospital for treatment. This case occurred because there was a misunderstanding between the defendant and the victim PTS while they were participating in a burial ceremony.

The facts of the incident were documented in the form of a medical certificate and photos from the Oe-Cusse Referral Hospital.

The hearing to announce the decision was presided over by judge João Ribeiro, the Public Prosecution Service was represented by Ambrosio Rangel Freitas and the defendant was represented by Afonso Fatima Gomes.

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