



JUDICIAL SISTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZASAUN DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL

Press Release

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Suai District Court hands down sentence of 23 years imprisonment in case of aggravated murder against a spouse

On 31 July 2012 the Suai District Court conducted a hearing to read out its decision in a case which was registered as Case No. 19/PEN/2011/TDS. This crime was allegedly committed by the convicted person Paulo da Costa against the deceased Filomena da Costa, who was his wife. The crime allegedly occurred in Alas Village, Same Sub-district, Manufahi District, in 2010. In addition to allegedly committing the crime of murder, the convicted person was also charged with committing the crime of serious maltreatment against the victim Maria de Araújo, who is the younger sister of his deceased wife.

The hearing to announce the decision was led by single judge Pedro Raposo Figueredo (international). The Public Prosecution Service was represented by Zélia Trindade and the convicted person was represented by Julio Pereira Cardoso and João Ndun from the 'Liberta' Legal Aid Institution (private lawyers).

The Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio, stated that JSMP welcomes this decision and all of the efforts of the judicial authorities to ensure fair justice in this case, which involved a crime that cannot be justified for any reason, especially considering that the crime was committed by the convicted person against his own wife.

In accordance with monitoring conducted by JSMP, the court announced that the convicted person was guilty of violating Article 139 (g) and Article 146 of the Penal Code.

The court based its decision on the testimony of the convicted person that all of the charges were true and his testimony that he had killed his wife and used a machete to slash the arm of his sister-in-law who had her hand severed from her arm.

In relation to the facts revealed during the trial the court sentenced the convicted person to 20 years imprisonment for committing the crime of aggravated murder and seven years imprisonment for the crime of serious maltreatment. However, the court concluded that for both crimes the convicted person would be given a sentence of 23 years imprisonment.

However in accordance with the law, the court gave the parties an opportunity to lodge an appeal to the Court of Appeal within 15 days from the date that the decision was issued by the court of first instance.

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