



JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME
PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL

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VICTIM AND FETUS DIE FROM ABORTION

On 19/11 the Oe-Cusse District Court conducted a hearing into a case of **abortion** involving the defendants **LL** and **ES**. The victim of this case died. The prosecutor's indictment stated that in March 2007 in Betasi, Taiboko the defendant **LL** entrusted some traditional medicine to the defendant **ES** to be given to the victim **J** and to be taken in accordance with instructions set out by the defendant **LL**. The aim of the two defendants was to enable the victim to abort her four month old fetus. The defendant instructed the victim to take the medicine regularly for three weeks. After several days the victim gave birth and neither the victim nor her baby could be saved.

During the trial the defendant **ES** denied all charges presented by the public prosecutor in relation to the death of the victim as the result of aborting her four month old fetus.

In response to questions about the death of the victim, the defendant **ES** said that he was not aware because he was in police custody. The defendant and witness were reluctant to state that they knew about the victim's pregnancy. They said that they only found out about the victim's pregnancy after her death. Based on monitoring conducted by JSMP, the witness in this case did not provide sufficient testimony, because all the witness said was that he did not know about the abortion.

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