

Press release: Woman who robbed her own grandfather jailed

Sherie Leigh North has been given a custodial sentence following the Solicitor General's referral to the Court of Appeal.

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A woman who carried out a spate of robberies has today been given a custodial sentence after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred her suspended sentence to the Court of Appeal.

Sherie Leigh North, 23, and another offender committed a number of robberies in late 2018. Their first victim was North's grandfather, who they robbed twice, stealing jewellery and £160 in cash. During the two robberies they threatened the victim with a hammer, and pushed and hit the victim.

They also robbed an adult store, with North entering the store first before her co-offender rushed into the shop and attacked an employee. The 2 took the employee's chain and £80 from the till.

North was originally sentenced in December 2018 to 2 years imprisonment suspended for 2 years at Bradford Crown Court. Today, the Court of Appeal has given her an immediate custodial sentence of 4 years.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

"North terrorised her own grandfather to feed her drug addiction. I hope that a custodial sentence gives North the time she needs to reflect on her actions and overcome her addiction."

News story: Troika Statement on Escalating Conflict in South Sudan

The members of the Troika (Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States) are alarmed about the escalating conflict around Yei, which represents a

flagrant breach of the December 2017 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the September 2018 revitalized peace agreement. These military actions, and the trading of blame, must stop.

We are particularly disturbed that fighting by all parties in the Yei area has severe humanitarian consequences for the local population. Thousands of South Sudanese have been displaced and fled across the border into the Democratic Republic of the Congo in recent days to escape fighting and violence against civilians, the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees has confirmed.

This renewed violence risks undermining the peace agreement and lowers confidence of the Troika and other international partners in the parties' seriousness and commitment to peace at a critical time of the pre-transitional period of the revitalized peace agreement.

We are concerned that if the situation escalates, the progress made in implementing the peace agreement will be irrevocably set back. In addition, if violence against civilians continues unchecked, it could fuel further cycles of retribution and atrocities.

All parties – the Government of South Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement In Opposition (SPLM-IO), and National Salvation Front – must end the violence immediately in fulfilment of the commitments they made in the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. Namely, they must ensure the safety of civilians and their freedom of movement, and guarantee safe routes for civilians to leave conflict areas. The parties must allow unrestricted access to Yei and the surrounding area for the UN Mission in South Sudan, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, as well as all humanitarian actors, to enable them to effectively carry out their roles.

Regional leadership will be essential to securing progress on this matter. We urge the region to respect the UN Arms Embargo and to hold those responsible for violations of the peace agreement and Cessation of Hostilities Agreement to account in line with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) statement of 31 January that called for all parties to "cease hostilities and military preparations immediately." The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (R-JMEC) has a central role in holding the parties to these agreements accountable to their commitments. We urge IGAD to appoint a credible and empowered R-JMEC Chair as a matter of urgency.

Further information

[Press release: Sex offender jailed by](#)

Court of Appeal

A man who engaged in sexual activity with an underage girl has been sent to prison after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred his suspended sentence for being too lenient.

Ian Chesworth, 36, was a family friend of the victim. The offending started after the victim, who was under 16 at the time, went to Chesworth's home asking for advice on a personal matter. Following this, Chesworth arranged several other meetings with the victim, including 2 where he had sex with her and 2 when he masturbated in her presence.

Chesworth was originally sentenced in December 2018 to 2 years imprisonment suspended for 2 years at Lewes Crown Court. Today, the Court of Appeal jailed him for 3 years.

Commenting on the increase, the Solicitor General said:

"Chesworth abused a position of trust for his own gratification. I am pleased that the Court of Appeal has today decided that his offences warrant a custodial sentence, and hope this brings the victim and her family some comfort."

Press release: Sex offender jailed by Court of Appeal

Ian Chesworth has been jailed after his suspended sentence was found to be 'unduly lenient'.