

PRESS RELEASE

January 2012 Criminal Assizes.

The Demerara January 2012 Criminal Assizes commenced on Tuesday 10th January, 2012. Two judges sat for the Assizes, Madam Justice Dawn Gregory and Mr. Justice Franklin Holder. Madam Justice Dawn Gregory sat to hear 112 matters and Mr. Justice Franklin Holder sat to hear 114 matters.

Six matters were tried during the Assizes. Three matters were each done by Madam Justice Dawn Gregory and the remaining three matters were done by Justice Frank Holder.

Of the three matters which were done by Madam Justice Dawn Gregory one of them was for the offence of Rape and Robbery Under Arms. In this matter the Jury returned a verdict of not guilty of both counts. The other two matters were for the offence of Murder. In one of them the Jury returning a unanimous verdict of guilty and the Accused was sentenced to death by hanging. In the other matter the accused pleaded not guilty of Murder and guilty of Manslaughter and was sentenced to twelve years imprisonment.

The three trials that were done by Justice Frank Holder were for the offence of Murder. There were two verdicts of not guilty and one verdict of guilty. In one of the matters there were two accused persons. The Jury returned a formal verdict of not guilty for one of the accused and a retrial was ordered for the other one. In the second matter the accused pleaded not guilty of Murder and guilty to the lesser count of Manslaughter. The accused was sentenced to ten years imprisonment. In the third matter a no-case submission was upheld and a formal verdict of not guilty was returned by the Jury.

At the same time trials for the Berbice October 2011 Criminal Assizes as well as the Essequibo October 2011 Criminal Assizes continued. Two matters were heard before Justice Brassington Reynolds. One of the matters was for the offences of Murder and Assault Causing Actual Bodily Harm. In this matter the accused pleaded not guilty of Murder and guilty to the lesser count of Manslaughter. The accused was sentence to 9 years imprisonment. For the second offence of Assault Causing Actual Bodily Harm the matter was Nolle Prosequi by the DPP. This was

due to the fact that the accused gave a statement stating that she did not wish to proceed in any further action. In the second matter which was for the offence of Murder, the accused pleaded not guilty to Murder and guilty to the lesser count of Manslaughter and was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. This brought an end to the Berbice October 2011 Criminal Assizes

For the Essequibo October 2011 Criminal Assizes there were three matters heard by Madam Justice Roxane George. One of the matters which was for the offence of Buggery the Jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty and the accused was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment. In the second matter which was for the offence of Manslaughter a no-case submission was upheld and the Jury returned a formal verdict of not guilty. In the third matter which was for the offence of Murder the Judge quashed the committal since it was indicated as bad and a new Preliminary Inquiry was ordered to be conducted. This brought an end to the Essequibo October 2011 Criminal Assizes.

The Berbice February 2012 Criminal Assizes was opened on the 7th February, 2012. There were 42 cases listed to be heard by Justice Bovell-Drakes during the Session. The Essequibo February 2012 Criminal Assizes was opened on the 21st February 2012. There were 18 cases listed to be heard by Mr. Justice Winston Patterson during the Session. The Demerara April 2012 Criminal Assizes commenced on April 3, 2012. There were 117 cases listed to be heard by Madam Justice Roxanne George and 117 cases listed to be heard by Mr. Justice Franklin Holder.