



PRESS RELEASE (No. 6 of 2014)

DPP DECIDES NO CHARGES IN SEREIMA BERWICK CASE

STATEMENT BY CHRISTOPHER PRYDE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Following an extensive police investigation into the death of Sereima Berwick following an inquest into her death in November last year and a thorough review of the evidence by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, it is clear that this is a tragic case of suicide.

It is also clear that the findings of the initial police investigation in 2007 that Sereima Berwick's death was as a result of suicide were correct. The police are to be commended for their thoroughness in completing this investigation.

There is absolutely no evidence to support the claims made at the inquest that Sereima Berwick was raped and murdered by three men. Accordingly, no charges will be laid against the persons named at the inquest.

There is evidence however that certain people may have conspired to pervert the course of justice and fabricate evidence. These allegations are being investigated and a decision on this will be made by the Director of Public Prosecutions in due course.

This matter serves as a reminder to the community at large to leave investigations to the proper authorities. Any attempt by people to interfere with police investigations or court proceedings by falsifying evidence will result in criminal proceedings with severe penalties on conviction.

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25 June 2014

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is an independent office established under section 117 of the 2013 Fijian Constitution. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is motivated by the principle that it is in the interests of justice that the guilty be brought to justice and the innocent are not wrongly convicted.