



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Tevita Kapawale sentenced to life imprisonment

Tevita Qaqa Kapawale was sentenced to life imprisonment for the brutal murders, attempted murder and criminal intimidation of seven crew members of the fishing vessel, *FV Tiro II*, this morning (12.8.25) by Justice Dane Tuiqereqere at the Suva High Court.

Tevita Qaqa Kapawale was convicted last month of five counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, and one count of criminal intimidation of crew members on board the fishing vessel.

He murdered Benjamin Matitaputty, Eme Warma, Alfat Kodri, Samuela Sukera, and Qiritavabea Cagilabakomeli on 18 May 2021, along the Mamanuca-Yasawa, whose bodies were never recovered. He also attempted to murder Kaminieli Tucama and criminally intimidated Mitieli Cama.

Justice Tuiqereqere in his sentencing stated that the impacts of his violence will be felt for years by the victims' families who have suffered terribly because of the senseless killing.

The Judge has set 26-years and 2 months as the minimum term to be served by Tevita Qaqa Kapawale before a pardon may be considered.

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NB: *Copies of Judgment and Sentence are uploaded to the ODPP Website.*