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Jehova's Witness Elder in court for rape, Lawyer questions why victim's father took case to police instead of church

Posted By [Chief Editor](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 2:06 pm In [General News](#) | [42 Comments](#)



[1]

Lawyer to a Jehovah's Witness Elder who is accused of raping a fellow congregant has wondered why father of the accused reported the matter to police when his church was capable of sorting out such matters.

Before Lusaka magistrate, Willie Banda, was Dennis Bwale, an elder at the Jehovah's Witness of Kanyama Congregation.

Bwale, 28, of Kanyama Site and Service, appeared in a case where he is accused of raping Melani Mufweba, a congregant of the same church, contrary to Section 132 of the Penal Code amendment Act number 2 of 2011.

Particulars of the offence are that Bwale, on July 12 this year, did have carnal knowledge of Melani Mufweba without her consent.

When the matter came up for continued trial today, father of the complainant, Kennedy Mufweba, told the court that he came to learn of what had happened to his daughter a month after the incident.

Mr Mufwebu said sometime in September, this year Melani and her mother went to the Kingdom Hall but upon return Melani rushed in the house and left her Bible and other books that she had with her.

He said upon realising that his daughter had gone out of the house for some time and it was becoming dark, he asked where she could have gone but shortly his phone rang.

Mr Mufwebu further said it was at this moment that he was informed that Melani had run away from home and went to her sister's house.

"As days past he noticed that his child did not want to return home but further resorted to go and stay with her friends' grandmother," he said.

Mr Mufweba further told the court that he then decided to go to his church and asked for help so that elders could find out from his child why she never wanted to return to home.

However to his surprise the congregation overseer told him that the church committee was in fact preparing to call him for a meeting to inform him of the report that his child had taken to the church.

He told the court that it was at this point that the elders told him that his child had reported to the church that he was raped by Dennis Bwale, one of the church elders.

Mr Mufweba, however, wondered why the church took long to tell him of the sad news.

"Your honour I was told not to blow out the issue as the matter could be sorted out quietly without people knowing," he said.

He said he, however, decided to go and report the matter to the police.

Mr Mufwebu further said upon hearing the matter he pleaded with his daughter to return home knowing that she had run away in fear of her parents.

He said his daughter then told him that she was warned by the church elders not to tell her parents, adding that if she did so she would be expelled from the church.

"Your honour, she told us that she ran away from home because she was not happy to keep a secret which was haunting her whenever she looked at us as she thought we could have known," said Mr Mufweba.

Meanwhile when the matter came up for trial last month, Melani told the court that Bwale called her and told her that she should meet him at the Kingdom Hall as there was something he needed to tell her.

She further told the court that Bwale, who was with his nephew, then asked her to escort him so that he could say what he wanted to tell her.

However along the way around 19:00 hours, Bwale asked her if she loved him.

But in her response, Melani wondered what he meant knowing well that he was engaged to a fellow congregant.

She said it was at this time that he grabbed her and forcefully kissed her.

Melani further narrated that Bwale went on to rip her skirt and under wear which she showed to the court during her testimony.

The matter has been adjourned to January 11, 2013 as some witnesses in the matter were not present.

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42 Comments To "Jehova's Witness Elder in court for rape, Lawyer questions why victim's father took case to police instead of church"

1 Comment By [Mo taim](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 2:18 pm

Some lawyers kaya mwe.I wonder what they teach them in some of these law schools.Nothing can ever justify raping another individual.

2 Comment By [Lady](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 2:26 pm

Thats the problem with cult leaders. They use fear to opress and do to their congrgants that which they preach to them is wrong. I hope he is locked up for a long time. God bless the father to this girl for doing the right thing and reporting this man to the police. I pray that this young girl sees justice.

3 Comment By [MUSOLI MUTHANSHI](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 2:44 pm

I am maules too my friend, how can a lawyer ask such a stupid question?

4 Comment By [dido](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 2:51 pm

ati she was warned by the church elders not to tell her parents, adding that if she did so she would be expelled from the church.
Batee. Yashani!!!! thats why have stopped going to church. Its better to pray from home and help the needy. Awee Bwafya

5 Comment By [JW](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 2:54 pm

There will be reckoning for all

6 Comment By [CNP-4U](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 3:11 pm

arrest that silly church elder..

7 Comment By [mature](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 3:14 pm

and the accused will pay the lawyer over this nonsense.. lawyers are nothing but thieves.

8 Comment By [lone ro](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 3:18 pm

Some churches?!!!! I wonder!!!!

9 Comment By [GUNDIX](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 3:31 pm

What is this lawyer's name? Everyone must keep away from this lawyer. Could this lawyer be a member of the JWs leadership? He comes across very conversant with the JWs church regulations of "Don't tell, munyina afwa munyina".

10 Comment By [sansamukeni](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 4:48 pm

This makes sad reading, i know Jehovah witnessed anf their values! This incident is not representative of them. The elder was 28 and single?? Strange, churches should look at msturity

11 Comment By [sansamukeni](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 4:52 pm

This makes sad reading, i know Jehovah witnessed anf their values! This incident is not representative of them. The elder was only 28 and singlr?? Churvhes nhem. The elder was 28 and single?? Strange, churches should look at msturity

12 Comment By [Chanda](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 5:08 pm

Jehovah's Witness is a society and not church, point of correction.

13 Comment By [IYE NAPAPA](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 5:22 pm

Imwe he cannot be a lawyer maybe a public prosecutor i.e.former police officer or a civil servant who went to NIPA.

14 Comment By [Nostradamus](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 6:09 pm

Hnnnnmmmm? She showed underwear to the judge, why?

15 Comment By [Nostradamus](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 6:11 pm

What is the difference does it make you Jehova's witness.

16 Comment By [Simms](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 6:29 pm

The magistrate should have cited the lawyer for contempt. What kind of barbaric law is he practicing?

17 Comment By [Mwanawakwitu](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 6:53 pm

HUH!! I am in awe at the church elders comments. If that was my daughter someone would be shot dead.

18 Comment By [The Oracle](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 6:53 pm

28 years old elder, no wonder

19 Comment By [chombane](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 8:29 pm

I am one of Jehovah's Witnesses, and I want to let you know bloggers that if one of Jehovah's Witnesses breaks the law, then the government should punish the offender. A serious crime like rape is not condoned in our congregations. That is why I totally disagree with certain parts of this story. The Elders in the congregation do not hide anything from the members of the congregation, if anything they are the ones who are always first to condemn such behavior and discipline the offender by means expulsion from the congregation. Lusaka times should get their facts right before publishing any story.

20 Comment By [Mwendanjangula](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 8:48 pm

"Jehova's Witness Elder in court for rape, Lawyer questions why victim's father took case to police instead of church." What type of a lawyer is this? Which law school did he/she go to? Just as we have to many fake Doctors (Dr. so so; Dr. that; Dr. this) in Zambia, so we have so many fake lawyers well. Any way, that is where money & status are: in titles and courts of law.

21 Comment By [sam imusho](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 9:06 pm

The church is full of hypocrites.why was melani stopped 4rm telling her parents by the elders what transpired?The answer is simple,the church of today wld want to potray 2 the world that they are holy and yet they are also fallible.

22 Comment By [Kanjimaano](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 9:13 pm

Impositors.. Those people are working against GOD why allowing them to run the church??

23 Comment By [Pepo](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 9:16 pm

JW do not believe that there is a hell. So they have nothing to fear. Unfortunately for them, a surprise in the name of hell awaits them!

24 Comment By [Kanjimaano](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 9:20 pm

As Invidence...in case the accused deny, they examin finger prints :)

25 Comment By [The Equalizer](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 10:19 pm

what a lawyer...

26 Comment By [Neutral](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 10:33 pm

@Chombane that is absoulutely not true. Jehovah's Witnesses hide a lot of things. Infact even when someone is being discommunicated they do not mention the reason. The standar brief statement is: [name] is no longer one of Jehovah's Witnesses. If an Elder is removed, they will not mention the reason as well. So on this one the story is spot on!

27 Comment By [andyzim](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 11:10 pm

If these guys come to visit your wife to share the word. Sorry.

28 Comment By [Truth hates](#) On December 14, 2012 @ 11:21 pm

These JW have denied Jesus Christ as the saviour of the world, they deny there is hell, they refuse that God manifested in flesh, they wrongly believe that in the Kingdom of God they will be marrying and having children. They have written the bible to suit their own anti-Christ doctrine..they have their own bible now, they have been prophesying the end of the world but shift goal posts..

Really what do you expect from them???

Peace and Prosperity to Mother Zambia.

29 Comment By [Sheree DuBois](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 3:09 am

I was a JW for 40 years and KNOW that these things are kept hidden from the congregation! The normal everyday Jehoahs Witness does not know until it happens to them. Being expelled from the Jehovahs Witnesses is a big thing, you are shunned by family and friends. Everyone you ever knew shuns you! The threat of expelling this girl would have scared her on top of being a rape victim.

A 28 yr old is NOT immature and DOES know what rape is and knows from the age of 2 what the word NO is!!!!

30 Comment By [Sheree DuBois](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 3:10 am

I am from Australia..the same thing happens to Jehovahs Witnesses worldwide!!

31 Comment By [truthShallSetYouFree](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 5:19 am

This is sad. No matter which religion you belong to these kinds of thing will happen. You can teach someone all the Bible principles and laws but ultimately it is up to them to apply it and practice it in their lives. You cannot blame the JW's org for what this man did. He is responsible for his own disgusting actions. As for the congregation elders if the account of them asking the victim to keep quiet even from her parents that will be dealt with they cannot do that scripturally. Do your research, REAL RESEARCH, and you will see that JW's DO teach the truth about the Bible. Stop your ignorant comments and get informed with the facts before you open your mouth.

32 Comment By [Vanessa Kelly](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 5:23 am

Also was a witness for many years, these things are happening all over world, JW's need to look at their beliefs more closely && help innocent more, not worry about how it looks!!!!!!:(

33 Comment By [Sheree DuBois](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 5:37 am

looks like it will have to happen in your family before you see it!!! It happened in mine..3 girls 4 different elders..all still elders!!!

34 Comment By [SHEIKH](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 7:33 am

This lawyer should be fired. Rape case, cannot be resolved at Congregation level. It is a Police case. Let this young man be arrested. How can he do such a thing in the name of being a believer?? Ok propose and marry than this nonsense. His desire for sex means he is mature enough to get married to have sex in a legal way. Causes of evil.

35 Comment By [replytoyou](#). On December 15, 2012 @ 7:47 am

You are totally misinformed about JW's. When a perfect angel sinned and became Satan, does it mean God teaches wrong things? The accused was enticed by Satan as an individual not the whole church.

36 Comment By [chiefblogger](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 8:15 am

No matter what bad comments people pass on this issue, the fact is everyone is responsible for their own actions. You can't blame the entire church for what one person did.. fact is JW's teach the truth. Tell me, Adam and Eve were given the best spiritual education by God himself but they sinned willfully, can you blame God for that? unless you are so dull and do not realize that humans have a free will to choose either to do bad or good. Besides, such things happen because we still have these other churches led by false teachers and the world in general lying under Satan's control. But a time is coming when the whole earth will be filled

by the knowledge of Jehovah and there will be nobody to influence people into wrong doing. To all JW's i say stand firm against satan's machinations!

37 Comment By [your reply](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 8:56 am

if you were a JW for 40yrs then now you are an apostate, becoz if you are a victim of rape then no need to fear expulsion. You will just report the matter to the Cong and wait to see the offender be dealt with. That does not mean you cannot report the matter to the police no, you can and let the law of the land play its course. To the offender expulsion helps to maintain the purity of the congregation.

38 Comment By [TB JOSHUA](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:01 am

THIS CASE IS COMMON TO ALL CHURCHES OR VERY SOCIETY WHERE THEIR ARE MEN AND WOMEN, I HAVE ABOUT IT FROM SDAs, CATHOLICS, NEW APOSTOLIC AND THE BORN AGAIN S(PENTECOSTALS). THEREFORE DONT FALL TO SUCH TEMPTATION YOURSELF AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

39 Comment By [chombane](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:14 am

Too bad you have lost the way of the truth. I am sure you could not live up to the high standards that Jehovah requires, hence you left, or should i say, you were expelled from the congregation!

40 Comment By [Elise Anderson](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:14 am

This is not a rare occurrence for Jw's. In fact they have a whole set of procedures for when this type of thing happens. Elders are instructed to call their own legal dept and not the police when paedophiles or rapists are exposed. The 2 witness rule and elder instructions also ensure that a witness will remain in good standing unless he confesses to the elders or there are 2 witnesses to the incident. Excluding DNA or forensics. A guilty plea in court does not count as an admission of guilt according to the secret elder handbook. These policies are evil.

41 Comment By [Elise Anderson](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:17 am

Chombane, there are many of us, and our number are increasing daily, who have seen the immorality and hypocrisy of the wbt's, have seen people hurt and traumatised and who have left on our own volition. We were not cast out, we woke up.

42 Comment By [chombane](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:19 am

The truth hates, as Jehovah's Witness we believe in Jesus Christ very much, he is our master, he saved us from the bondage of sin and death, without him we not exist. So get your facts right.

43 Comment By [ISSA NOEL KALINIJABO](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:19 am

it's so bad, oohhhh Jehovah ! come to deliver your people.

44 Comment By [eddy](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:21 am

ohhh!!! Mana nongwi utefa antuba weba pe nduwemi!

45 Comment By [chombane](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:27 am

Neutral, what i meant was that they do not sweep wrong doing under the carpet. They deal with the wrongdoer. A case like rape, yes the wrongdoer will will dealt with by the authorities like the police just like any person who does it, as you normally, their is no sacred cow and then also at congregation level.

46 Comment By [Sheree DuBois](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:36 am

I was not expelled I left! Our pleas to elders and society to help were ignored!!!!

47 Comment By [Sheree DuBois](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:43 am

I find it incredible that rather than be sympathetic to this girl and the story I told about myself and my sisters...I am judged! But instead I'm told that I can't hold high standards!!! Amazing ignorance!!!!

48 Comment By [Truth hates](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 9:56 am

Chombane, you are a liar man. The truth is what I have said. I have sisters and many relations who are JW. You have re-written the bible to suit your anti-christ doctrine. My sister was a very staunch JW , we preached christ to her but always denied Him, until the illness of her son who received no spiritual care from her fellow JW is when she realized that she was missing something. Both her and the Son now have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal saviour and have since put off the JW garbs. This is the fact man.

49 Comment By [Floyd Chitalu](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 10:04 am

This Lawyer is utterly stupid ***** . What a wonderfool question by this Lawyer!??????

50 Comment By [Truth hates](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 10:07 am

Sure man, you have denied christ as the eternal life giver. You have not believed nor called upon him for salvation. You believe in works and not faith in the Lord Jesus christ. You have re-written the Bible so it suits your anti-christ doctrine. What can you tell us you JW.

51 Comment By [john](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 10:20 am

he is a former zambia state insurance company secretary.....a drunkard and dull

52 Comment By [Eric](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 11:00 am

Chombane, I too must disagree, and I know this firsthand as I was an elder for many years before stepping down due to things like this.

The things that are covered up and go on in these backrooms is disgusting, and the elders (sincere as most of them are) are not equipped or trained to handle matters of mental health, couples counseling, depression, etc.

There is something seriously wrong with the way the WT Organization handles these matters and it is heartbreaking to me.

53 Comment By [Eric](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 11:05 am

Chombane and Your Reply

You are both showing a very judgmental attitude- it's easy to simply call someone a bad name like "apostate" but how could you actually know that was the case with Sheree?

Can you read her heart? Are you the judge? Read John 5:22,23 to see who the judge of all things is- it's not you people and its not the elders either.

54 Comment By [Eric](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 11:11 am

"Real research" involves looking at an issue from all sides and examining all the evidence. If you google "TTATT", Jehovah's Witnesses joined the UN", "Watchtower facts", etc. you will be able to get all sides and do the research.

Read "Crisis of Conscience" written in a humble manner, by a man that was a member of the Governing Body. What does the truth have to fear by doing actual research?

55 Comment By [Eric](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 11:16 am

And you know this..how? You have been an elder? You have sat in on these types of meetings? Or has your husband/wife done so?

You are speaking out of loyalty, but with no real data or intelligence that has been gathered. Get the facts- do the research. It's out there waiting, "seek it as hidden treasure".

56 Comment By [Richard Barron](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 11:49 am

Yet, the JW's continue to berate the Catholic Church for their handling of child abuse!! Hypocrites!!

57 Comment By [Jehovah](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 12:24 pm

The lawyer is most likely jw who is paid by WTS in which case the laws of the land are viewed as secondary to the rules of WTS. I applaud the father for doing the right thing. When a crime comes to light report it to police so they can investigate it and base their findings on something more than an assumption by 3 uneducated elders! Jws should stop being afraid of speaking out, this isn't the 60s where these things were kept quiet, WTS has more dirty laundry than any major religion

58 Comment By [XJG](#) On December 15, 2012 @ 4:08 pm

Here is a link to the secret Elders manual:
[2]

Learn about the instructions for an internal Church Judge!

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