



NEWS REPORT

Date: 23 December 2009
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Title: Court's decision on homophobic assault and robbery
Country: Portugal'

Context

Issue at stake: First instance court trial of 7 persons accused of violent assaults and robbery of homosexual couples

Ground of discrimination: Sexual orientation

Source: Miscellaneous

Field: Other

Content

Circumstances of the case: A group of seven young men (under the age of 21) were accused by the Court of Coimbra for attacking and robbing homosexual couples in a violent manner, provoking physical harm. They had used knives, sabres, short bladed and switchblades during the assault. These facts occurred in Coimbra, in 2008.

Decision of the Court: The First Instance Court of Coimbra – Case 2354/08.1PBCBR of 12/01/2010 - considered it proven that they acted driven by homophobic hate and in a very violent manner against the homosexual couples. Three of the defendants were convicted to prison (from 5 to 7 years). The other defendants were convicted to prison for four years to five years but suspended. The Court reminded that these sentences although suspended may be revoked at any time.

The defendants did not show during the trial any regret and the public prosecutor reasoned that all of them were very young and hoped that they would gain conscience in the future about these actions.