



**14 FEBRUARY, 2011**

**MEDIA STATEMENT FROM CHIEF HIGH COURT JUDGE**

**PUBLICATION OF COMPLAINANTS' NAMES IN SEXUAL ABUSE CASE**

The Chief High Court Judge, Justice Winkelmann, says her inquiries have established that the judgment was forwarded to the Ministry by the sentencing judge without noting the statutory suppression that applies, and cleared for publication. This was in error. The sentencing judge very much regrets this has happened.

“However, as the publisher of judgments the Ministry of Justice has a responsibility to ensure that all details required to be suppressed by statute or by court order are removed from published judgments. Statutory suppression provisions in particular apply to everyone and do not depend on the direction of a judge. Publication of the decision is not at the direction of the judge.”

“I therefore intend to review the way in which judgments are noted and marked for distribution by the Court and will discuss with the Ministry how checks within the system can be improved so that mistakes of this nature do not occur again. “

STATEMENT ENDS

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