

Indonesian gets 12 years and 11 strokes for armed robbery

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TAWAU: A 31-year-old Indonesian was jailed 12 years and ordered to get 11 strokes of the cane for robbing a senior citizen with a machete. Sessions Court Judge Awang Kerisnada Awang Mahmud meted out the sentence to Arip Tarip who pleaded guilty. Arip had robbed Jong Fook Onn, 65, by using the weapon at 5.24am on Sept 2 this year at a coffee shop in Taman Hill Top, here. The offence under Section 392/397 of the Penal Code carries a jail term of up to 14 years, and whipping, on conviction. In his mitigation, Arip asked for leniency.

However, Deputy Public Prosecutor Mohd Syahnidzam Ahmad urged the court to impose a heavy sentence on the grounds that it was a serious offence as Arip had used the weapon in committing the offence. The court heard that while the victim was cleaning up the coffee shop, an unknown man approached the victim and pointed the machete towards the victim.

The victim, fearing for his safety, surrendered his wallet containing his MyKad, driving licence, bank card and RM120 to the man later identified as Arip who then fled the scene. Following a police report, Arip was arrested. Arip was also sentenced to another 13 months' jail plus five strokes of the cane for entering the State illegally. The court ordered the sentence to be served consecutively with the robbery case. After completing the jail sentence, Arip was ordered referred to the Immigration Department for deportation.