

Indonesian gets 30 years, 12 strokes for murdering fellow countryman



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SIBU: An Indonesian man was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment and 12 strokes of the cane by the High Court here yesterday for murdering his compatriot in Mukah in 2024.

Judicial Commissioner Alvin Leong convicted Rosianto, 33, on his guilty plea to a charge under Section 302 of the Penal Code, and ordered him to serve the sentence from the date of his arrest on Dec 17, 2024.

Rosianto was charged with murdering Ahmad Rifai near a workers' quarters at an oil palm plantation in Mukah at about 6pm on Dec 15, 2024.

According to the facts of the case, an altercation occurred between Rosianto and Ahmad before the accused chased the deceased.

Ahmad fell to the ground and reached for a nearby rod to defend himself, but Rosianto stabbed him in the neck and left iliac fossa of the abdomen before fleeing into a nearby plantation block.

The court was also told that following his arrest, Rosianto led police to a 23cm-long knife with a wooden handle at a block within the plantation.

A knife sheath recovered near the crime scene was subsequently matched to the knife.

DNA analysis found bloodstains on a pair of black shorts recovered from Rosianto that matched Ahmad's DNA profile, while DNA profiles obtained from the knife were consistent with Rosianto's.

A witness also positively



Police escort Rosianto from the court after sentencing.

identified Rosianto during an identification parade as the person he had seen chasing and stabbing Ahmad.

The investigation further uncovered prior workplace friction between the accused and deceased, including a threat by Rosianto in November 2024 to cause injury to Ahmad.

In mitigation, defence counsel Ranbir Singh Sangha submitted that the murder was not premeditated, saying his client had confronted Ahmad over an alleged insult against his mother.

Ranbir also submitted that Rosianto had been carrying the knife for fishing and that the confrontation escalated after

Ahmad allegedly threatened to rape his client's mother.

In handing down the sentence, the judicial commissioner said the court was satisfied that Rosianto understood the nature and consequences of his guilty plea and had admitted the facts and exhibits unequivocally and without reservation.

"The sanctity of human life cannot be overstated. A life was taken," he said, adding he had taken into account the mitigating circumstances raised by the defence as well as the factors submitted by the prosecution.

The prosecution was handled by deputy public prosecutor Mark Kenneth Netto.