

Arrest warrant issued for senior citizen after no-show for court revision proceedings



Ho (seated right) with two of the victim's family members. Standing behind them are lawyers assisting him in the case, Clement Hii and Sii Yew Nei.

SIBU: The High Court here yesterday issued a warrant of arrest against a senior citizen who failed to appear for revision proceedings in a sexual assault case involving a woman with disabilities.

Judge Wong Siong Tung issued the warrant against Chieng Huo Ai, 60, under Section 315 and Section 325(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Lawyer Boston Ho, representing the victim's family, said the court further ordered that Chieng be remanded in custody or committed to prison pending the outcome of the revision, with liberty to apply for bail.

"The decision was made in the interest of justice and to ensure

that the court can properly adjudicate the case," he told a press conference here.

On Sept 6 last year, the Sessions Court fined Chieng RM8,000 after he pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 354 of the Penal Code.

Dissatisfied with the decision, the victim's family filed a criminal revision application to challenge the fine imposed on Chieng.

Ho said the application was made after the prosecution did not file an appeal against the sentence.

"The victim's family maintains that the sentence is manifestly inadequate and does not reflect the gravity of the offence committed against a vulnerable victim.

"They believe that justice demands a punishment that is both proportionate and reflective of the severity of the act," he said.

Ho submitted to the court that since the start of the revision proceedings, Chieng had failed to attend any of the hearings and had repeatedly evaded the serving of court documents and notices.

He said the victim's family is calling on Chieng to surrender to the authorities and face the proceedings in court.

"They also appeal to the public to assist in locating the accused and to contact the nearest police station if he is spotted," he said.

The court has fixed June 30 for the next mention of the case.