University lecturer bags life imprisonment for rape

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An Ikeja Special Offences and Domestic Violence Court has sentenced Kolawole Muyiwa, a former part-time lecturer at Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education (now Lagos State University of Education), to life imprisonment over rape.  
  
Justice Rahman Oshodi ruled that the prosecution had proven the case of defilement beyond a reasonable doubt.  
  
The crime was committed on October 11, 2021, within the premises of the college in Oto-Ijanikin, Lagos State.  
  
Kolawole was arraigned on October 6, 2023, and pleaded not guilty. However, in delivering the judgment, Justice Oshodi found him guilty, citing the survivor’s detailed testimony and the defendant’s admission of requesting a relationship with her, which he claimed was platonic.  
  
“Kolawole Muyiwa I have found you guilty of rape contrary to section 260 of the criminal law chapter 17 volume laws of Lagos state 2015  
  
“I note that you are a first-time offender with no criminal record, and you are married with three children. You also served as a part time lecturer  
  
However, the gravity of the offense committed cannot be overlooked: “As a part-time lecturer, you occupied the position of trust and authority which you abused.  
  
The victim was a student at the institution where you taught.  
  
“Section 260 of the criminal law describes life imprisonment punishment for your crime, and that is what I shall sentence you to. You shall also be registered as a sex offender.”  
  
During the trial, the survivor told the court that “on October 11, 2021, she arrived early for a departmental meeting scheduled for 10 am. while waiting outside her classroom, the defendant approached and requested her to go get him food. She declined due to her pending meeting.  
  
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The court noted that the survivor followed the defendant to get a flask for the food purchase, and he led her to the office.  
  
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“When they got inside, the defendant said he no longer wanted food but needed help marking some examination scripts. She added that the defendant went outside, returned, and locked the passage gate and office door.”  
  
She said that the defendant asked if she had a boyfriend, to which she said no.  
  
He suddenly pushed me down the plastic chair I was sitting on, overpowered me and forcefully removed my trousers. I was menstruating at the time, and he removed my sanitary pad and had forceful sexual intercourse with me.  
  
The survivor said that after they had sex with her, the defendant said: “What you refused to give me willingly, I have taken by force.”  
  
The defendant, in his account, told the court that on October 11, 2021, he came to the college to record and submit a script and that he met the survivor on reaching the gate, who offered to help him carry his bag.  
  
He asked her if she could help record scores, to which she agreed. She informed him that she had a meeting.  
  
The defendant told the court that he asked the survivor for a relationship while inside his office, and she accepted. He explained that the relationship meant was,  
  
“To be together, to talk, relate with one another, but not for sexual relationship. He denied rapping the survivor.  
  
His counsel, Dr G.O. Erenta, told the court to discharge and acquit the defendant as the evidence of the survivor was fictitious and no corroborating evidence was established.  
  
But the judge held that the testimonies of the survivor corroborated with that of the legal practitioner and that of the IPO.