Group hails court verdict against perpetrators of sexual assault in Kebbi

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Association of Lawyers with Disabilities in Nigeria (ALDIN) has applauded a high court sitting in Kebbi State for sentencing three persons to life imprisonment for sexually assaulting an 18-year-old hearing-impaired woman.  
  
  
  
In a statement yesterday, ALDIN applauded the judgment and said it serves as a significant milestone in the fight for disability rights and justice in Nigeria.  
  
Its National President, Ikem Uchegbulam, said: “We salute the court for upholding the rights of persons with disabilities. The perpetrators’ actions were a gross violation of the victim’s rights and dignity, and we are pleased that justice has been served.  
  
“The courageous decision by Justice Shamsudeen Jafar sends a strong message that disability rights and the dignity of persons with disabilities are sacrosanct and will be protected by the law.  
  
“The perpetrators took advantage of the victim’s vulnerability, but the court has held them accountable for their reprehensible actions.” Uchegbulam said this judgment is a testament to the power of advocacy and the importance of ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to justice.  
  
ALDIN commended the prosecution team, led by Faridah Muhammad, for their tireless efforts in seeking justice for the victim. It also extolled the professionalism and diligence of the police in investigating and prosecuting the case.  
  
The group stated, “Their efforts have ensured that justice is served and that the perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.” ALDIN therefore called on all stakeholders to continue working together to create a society that recognises and defends the rights of individuals with disabilities.  
  
“The association recognises the Kebbi State High Court’s verdict as a noteworthy victory for disability rights and celebrates it as a significant step towards equity and fairness in society.  
  
“As lawyers with disabilities, we understand the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in accessing justice. This judgment reinforces our commitment to advocate the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure that they have equal access to justice,” the group added.