

Pange and Marini were two women who had lived all their lives in a secluded area of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) belonging to the primitive Ka1anga tribe, and had never interacted in any significant way with people outside of the tribe. In 1961 there was a drought in the area which posed the threat of starvation to the entire tribe. While talking to a local witch doctor, the women expressed their fears to him, and he promised to prepare some muti, a magic potion, to mix with seeds during planting so that crops would be plentiful. It was a custom among the Kalanga people to prepare such a potion during times of drought, consisting of several ingredients collected by witch doctors plus the fingers, toes, and inside portion of the stomach of a tribe member who is killed, usually a relative of the person who requests the potion. The witch doctor told Pange and Matini they must kill a child. Neither woman had children, however, they killed Matini's two year old cousin, and brought her body to the witch doctor. The colonial authorities of Rhodesia (Rhodesia was a British colony) brought charges of murder against Pange and Matini. The two women were put on trial in a Rhodesian court.

Should Pange and Matini have been acquitted or found guilty of murder? In either case give your reasons.

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