

Legal Issues Club Activity



In the box below there are the names of 22 crimes. The list below the box gives the definitions of the same crimes. Match the crimes to their definitions:

arson assassination assault bigamy blackmail bribery burglary
embezzlement espionage extortion forgery fraud libel
manslaughter murder perjury piracy robbery slander
smuggling theft treason

1. _____ acting in such a way as to make someone believe he or she will be hurt
2. _____ betraying your country to a foreign power
3. _____ copying patented inventions or copyrighted works
4. _____ entering a building illegally and stealing things
5. _____ getting money from people by threatening to publicise facts they do not want revealed
6. _____ getting money from people by using threats
7. _____ getting property or money from people by making them believe untrue things
8. _____ going through ceremony of marriage when you are still married to someone else
9. _____ killing a public figure illegally and intentionally
10. _____ killing someone illegally and intentionally
11. _____ killing someone unintentionally or in mitigating circumstances

12. _____ making an illegal copy of a banknote or a document
13. _____ offering money corruptly to get someone to do something to help you
14. _____ saying something that damages someone's character
15. _____ setting fire to a building
16. _____ stealing something by using force or threatening to use force
17. _____ stealing, taking property which belongs to someone else
18. _____ taking goods illegally into or out of country
19. _____ telling lies when you have sworn an oath to say what is true in court
20. _____ using illegally or stealing money which you are looking after for someone else
21. _____ writing, publishing or broadcasting a statement which damages someone's character
22. _____ trying to find out secrets by illegal means

Below there are ten statements by defendants. Together with your partner read them and say what crime each one has been accused of.

1. “I arrived home late and found that I’d forgotten my keys. I didn’t want to wake my wife up, and I saw there was a ladder in the garden of the house next door. I got the ladder and climbed in. we’ve just moved house and I didn’t realise I was in the wrong street...”
1. “I was walking my dog when I saw the gun lying on the ground. I picked it up – it was still warm – and at that moment I saw the body lying in the long grass. I went across to look and it was my business partner. That’s when the police arrived...”
1. “I opened the bank account in a false name as a way to help my employer pay less tax – it’s perfectly legal. I kept meaning to tell him, but somehow I just forgot. I bought the villa in France with my own money. It was an inheritance...”
1. “OK, so there are 123 copies of the video. That’s perfectly true, but I had no intention of selling them. I’m a collector.”
1. “Well this obviously isn’t my suitcase. I’ve never seen these things before in my life. The monogram? Well, they are my initials, but that must be a coincidence. That’s probably how the two cases got mixed up. After all, JA aren’t very unusual initials. A photograph with me in it? My word, that’s incredible! It must be someone who knows me...”

6. "I didn't know my wife was still alive, I thought she'd died in a car accident. I couldn't believe it when I saw her walk into the room. Surely, you don't think I married just to get your money...?"

7. "You misunderstand me. When I offered him the money I meant it as a gift. I know that life can be very difficult for a young man on a police salary, especially if he has a family, young children etc. it isn't easy and I know that. I just wanted to help. I didn't expect him to do anything in return..."

8. "After leaving the office I realized I'd forgotten my umbrella. I went back in to get it. When I went in I noticed that the photocopier was still turned on. It had been working very badly all day, and I decided to quickly see what was wrong with it before going home. I made a few test copies of documents that were in the office; I didn't even look at what I was copying. The machine seemed to be working much better. I put the copies in my briefcase intending to use the other side as a notepaper. I don't believe in wasting paper. At that moment Mr Sanders came out of his office...."

9. "I painted them for pleasure. I had no intention of deceiving people. I never said they were by other people. Yes, I did include the signatures of other artists but that's because I wanted them to be perfect copies ..."

10. "Mr Wills sent me the money to help me in my business venture. I'm trying to start a design agency. He sent me cheques every month for \$1200. a couple of times he sent extra when I had special expenses. It was always understood that he would participate in the profits of the business when it was running. We didn't write anything down, it was an oral agreement. The photographs I have of him with his secretary have no connection with these payments...."

Discussion



1. How have science and technology changed what crimes are committed? How about the way we solve them?
2. Do you think that men and women are punished the same for the same crimes? Why or why not? How should it be?
3. Should users of illegal drugs be put in jail? Why or why not? What about the people who sell them?
4. Do you think it's possible to prevent certain kinds of crimes? If so, which ones and how?

5. Why do you think that there have been so many school shootings at high schools in the United States?

6. What do you think are reasonable penalties for people who commit environmental crimes? (for example, killing an endangered animal, being responsible for a major industrial accident like Chernobyl, polluting a river, etc.)

7. How much does the media cover crime in your country? Do you think that they should spend less time or more time on it?



8. Have you (or anyone you know) been the victim of a crime? What happened?

9. In your opinion, what causes a person to become a criminal? Can society change this?

- 10.Which crimes do you think will increase in the 21st century? What about decrease?



Woman dubbed a 'Lion Mama' by South African media

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/woman-killed-daughters-rapist-murder-charges-dropped-south-africa-gang-rape-a7992041.html>

A South African woman who stabbed a man to death and severely injured two others after allegedly catching them raping her daughter has been told she will not face murder charges, following a public outcry.

The woman, who has been dubbed “Lion Mama” by the South African media, told police she had stabbed the three men at an unoccupied house in the village of Qumbu in the Eastern Cape, after she found them attacking her daughter.

She said she had been told about the attack by the 18-year-old cousin of the man who died and had tried to call the local police but received no answer.

When she got there, she found the three men taking it in turns to rape her daughter and stabbed them all repeatedly until they collapsed, she said. The mother has not been named in order to protect the identity of her daughter.

The 56-year-old reportedly ran 3km with a kitchen knife after she was told her daughter was in danger during the incident on 2 September.

After attacking the alleged rapists she comforted her 27-year-old daughter until the police arrived but was arrested by police and charged with murder and two counts of attempted murder.



But on Sunday the National Prosecution Authority announced all charges were officially being dropped, according to local media reports.

Prosecutors gave no official explanation for why the charges had been dropped but spokesman Luxolo Tyali [told South Africa's News 24](#) that they did not see a realistic chance of conviction.

The “Lion Mama” case prompted an outpouring of support on social media with people across the country rallying to help her.

A woman in Cape Town, Natalie Kendrick, set up a crowdfunding page which raised over R130,000 (£7,170) to help her with her legal fees, [Times Live reported](#).

Addressing a huge crowd which had gathered outside the Lady Frere Magistrates Court for the hearing where the charges were formally dropped, the woman thanked her supporters.

She said: "I felt like an old baboon that has no friends, but today you showed me I have people and that I was not alone. Thank you.

"I am happy that the charges are withdrawn against me and I thought I was going to jail, but God was on my side."

Her lawyer, Buhle Tonise, said the money raised would now go towards trauma counselling for the woman and her daughter.

The two surviving men, Xolisa Siyeka and Mncedisi Vuba, are due to appear in court next week to face charges over the alleged rape. Zamile Siyeka was pronounced dead at the scene.