

Court “E” Demands Gender Provides Support For Rape Victim Or Risk Contempt

...Without Fear or Favor

Without fear or favor, Criminal Court “E” Judge, His Honor Wesseh A. Wesseh, has demanded that the Ministry of Gender commit itself to providing the educational support as ruled by his predecessor, Judge Serena F. Garlawolo, to a rape victim in 2024 or risk contempt of Court.

On Monday, November 16, 2026, assigned Judge of the Criminal Court “E”, Judge Wesseh A. Wesseh, cited the Ministry of Justice

and the Ministry of Gender to a conference in support of a 14-year-old rape victim in 2024.

During the conference, the lawyer representing the victim informed the court that the Ministry of Gender has not committed to supporting the Child's educational future and sought the court's intervention as enshrined in its October 7, 2025 ruling in favor of the victim, who was 14 years old at the time of the incident.

On the other hand, a female representative of the Ministry of Gender pleaded with the court that the Ministry would look into the matter after the passage of the new budget, as the year had already ended; a statement Judge Wesseh said is not in the best interest of the child's future because there is still room to enroll in school for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Judge Wesseh instructed the clerk of court to order the Ministry of Gender to enroll the child in school within two weeks, setting November 30, 2026, as the deadline or risk contempt of court.

It can be recalled that, on October 7, 2025, Judge Garlawolu made a final ruling against defendant Victor Ere for Statutory Rape and sentenced him to 4 years and three months in prison, in addition to the nine months already spent.

The judge, in her ruling, ordered a minimum of USD 50.00 (Fifty United States dollars) in support for the child by the Ministry of Justice through the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Crimes Unit, coupled with additional support (provision of seed funding for a small business along with the flagship program with Save Our Soul (SOS)) under the initiative of the Ministry of Gender.