



CARIBBEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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CCJ RE-OPENS CAMPUS TRENDZ CASE

Port of Spain, Trinidad. The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) held a Case Management Conference (CMC) today re-opening the appeal of *Renaldo Anderson Alleyne v The Queen*. Alleyne had appealed against the judge's imposition on him of six life sentences for the firebombing of a clothing store (Campus Trendz) in Barbados which resulted in the deaths of six young women.

On the 2 January 2019, the Court issued a CMC Notice requesting further information from the parties after discovering that Alleyne had been involved in the firebombing of another building (the Chicken Galore building) on the 13 August 2010, less than one month before the Campus Trendz incident. At the CMC hearing, the lawyers on both sides confirmed that Alleyne had pleaded guilty to aggravated burglary and arson in relation to the firebombing of the Chicken Galore building. This information, however, had not been brought to the Court's attention during the hearing of Alleyne's appeal against sentence in the Campus Trendz matter, held on 5 December 2018.

In 2010, Mr. Renaldo Alleyne was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to six concurrent life sentences for the Campus Trendz store incident. At the Court of Appeal in Barbados, Mr. Alleyne argued that the life sentences imposed on him by the trial judge were excessive and further that the trial judge did not consider a discount for his early guilty plea. In dismissing his appeal, the Court of Appeal held that his sentences were neither excessive, disproportionate or wrong in principle, given the seriousness of the offence, and that the issue of a discount did not apply to a life sentence. Mr. Alleyne appealed to the CCJ seeking to have the decision of the Court of Appeal overturned. The CCJ on 5 December 2018 had reserved judgment in the matter.

However, in light of the new information regarding the Chicken Galore building incident, the CCJ at the CMC hearing held today ordered the parties to file further written submissions. The Court requested further submissions on whether Alleyne's guilty plea in relation to the Chicken Galore incident should have been considered by the Judge who sentenced him for the Campus Trendz incident. The Court also asked whether Mr Alleyne's plea of Guilty in respect of the Chicken Galore incident is relevant to the appeal before this Court. Additionally, the CCJ ordered the parties to give reasons why this information was not provided to the Court at the time when the Court heard Alleyne's appeal on the Campus Trendz incident. The Court advised that its judgment will be further reserved pending the filing of the above mentioned further submissions. For more information on the matter please visit the Court's website at www.ccj.org.

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