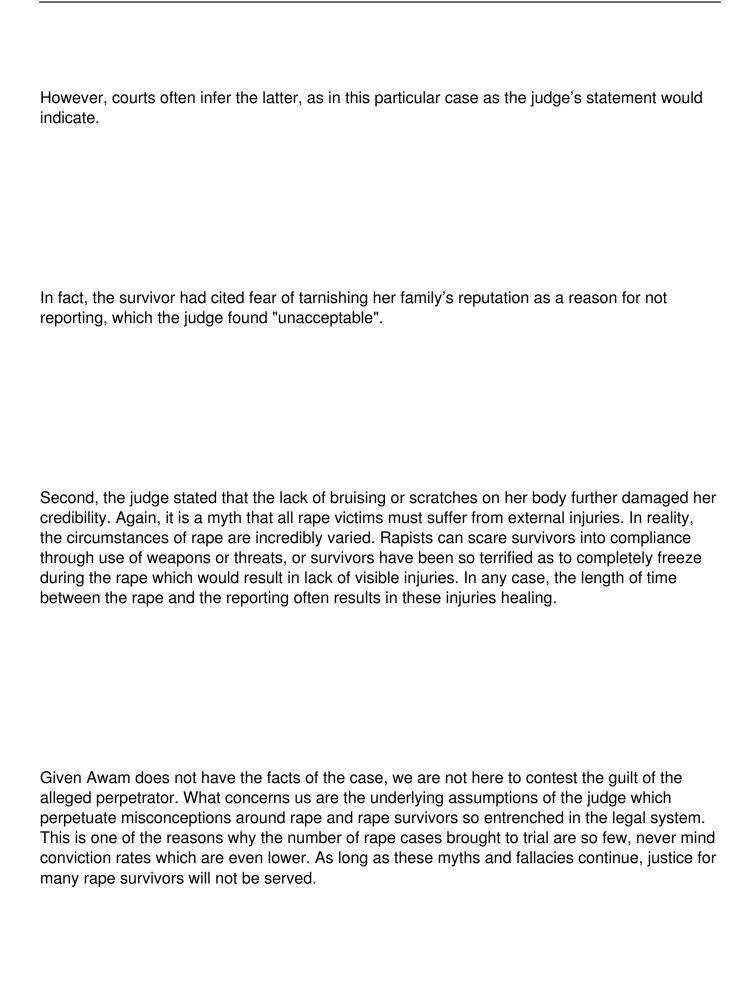


WITH reference to "Former NS coach's rape conviction overturned" (Oct 28), All Women's Action Society (Awam) is alarmed by statements made by the judge in making the decision to set aside the rape conviction, which perpetuate certain myths about rape.

First, the judge said that the delay in the survivor's lodging police report was "not a reasonable excuse". We reiterate that only one out of ten rapes are reported, and of those who do report it, only a minority report it promptly. In a 1999 Awam study, it was found that the average time that a survivor takes to lodge a report is 46.4 days. In short, the notion that if a woman was raped she would report it immediately is a fallacy.

There are many reasons why a woman chooses to delay reporting, including being incapacitated by the ordeal and not wanting to recount the trauma to medical officers, the police, etc, the fear of retribution by the perpetrator, the stigma of being a rape victim, the loss of privacy, and many more. The delay in reporting does not mean that a rape did not occur.



Sofia Lim Siu Ching President **All Women's Action Society**