

**IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS MAGISTRATE'S COURT  
AT HONIARA  
Criminal Case 1165 of 2017**

**Regina**

**V**

**John RAMO**

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Before: Principal Magistrate Ms. Fatimah Taeburi  
Mr. Abel Maelanga for the Crown  
Ms. Namo for the Defendant

Date of Hearing: 28<sup>th</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
Date of Sentence: 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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**SENTENCE**

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1. You pleaded guilty to one count of assault causing actual bodily harm contrary to section 245 of the Penal Code.
2. I convict you.
3. The facts in your case are that you went and called the victim. He came out. You punched him on his mouth with your bare hands. He sustained a very serious injury.
4. He sustained a laceration on his lip which measured a 6 cm in length and 4 cm in depth.
5. He received 5 stitches to his lip.
6. The only aggravating factor I find in your case is that the injury sustained by the victim is serious. I consider the pain and suffering he has experienced at the time.
7. I find the following mitigating factors;
8. You pleaded guilty.
9. You have no previous convictions.

10. You have cooperated with the police and the courts during the course of this case.
11. I consider the fact that you have spent 4 months in custody for this offence.
12. You have reconciled with your victim. A compensation of \$5,500 was paid. This is a substantial amount. Although the reconciliation was done in your absence, as at the time, you were remanded in custody, it was done at your instructions and request.
13. I also take into account that you and your victim had made prior arrangements to resolve this matter in the customary way after the completion of this case.
14. I make the comment that our formal Laws do recognize and accept our customary ways of resolving disputes.
15. I take into account your personal circumstances and what you told me in court today.
16. The maximum penalty for this offence is 5 years imprisonment.
17. I am satisfied that the appropriate punishment is 6 months imprisonment. The defendant has already served 4 months in custody. In my view that is enough punishment. I therefore order that the remainder of the sentence is suspended for a period of 12 months.
18. The parties are encouraged to reconcile as proposed and settle this dispute.
19. Right of appeal within 14 days.



Ms. Fatimah Taeburi  
Principal Magistrate