



THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA SUMMARY – JUDGMENT DELIVERED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL

From: The Registrar, Supreme Court of Appeal
Date: 27 November 2005
Status: Immediate

Please note that the media summary is intended for the benefit of the media and does not form part of the judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal

**MADLEEN ALBERTINA MARIKE BREDEHANN
and
THE STATE**

**APPELLANT
RESPONDENT**

A young woman, Madleen Bredenhann, 27 years old at the time, was convicted in the Pretoria High Court of having murdered her mother and grandmother by hacking them to death with an axe while they lay sleeping in their Pretoria-North home. She was sentenced to two terms of life imprisonment.

Her appeal to the Full Bench of the Pretoria High Court was unsuccessful though one of the three judges found that she should have been found guilty of being an accessory after the fact to murder and not murder.

In a further appeal to the SCA the question was whether the single dissenting judge was correct. The SCA found that the appellant either committed the murders herself (the most probable scenario) or she actively assisted someone else in the commission of the offences. The possibility that she merely stood by while the murders were committed without approving was dismissed as not being a possible inference to be drawn from the proven facts. The appeal court held that the appellant's explanation as to how her mother's blood came to be on her blouse was false.

The appeal was dismissed.