

Large Breasts Prove Women's Innocence Of Apartment Break-in

By JD Staff

Japanese actress Serena Kozakura was convicted in July 2007 of willful destruction of property and sentenced to 14 months imprisonment. Her sentence was suspended for three years conditional on her good behavior. Kozakura's conviction was based on the testimony of a male friend. He testified that in November 2006 she thought he was with another woman, so she kicked a hole in the door to his Tokyo apartment, that she then crawled through.

Kozakura appealed to Tokyo's High Court on the basis that she is factually innocent. She asserted that it is impossible for her to fit through the 8-1/2" wide hole in the door because of her 44" breasts. Her lawyer explained that her breasts protrude further from her chest bone than the hole is wide, and to illustrate that she could not fit through the hole he showed the appeals court judges a plate the size of the hole. He also argued that the clothes she wore on that day showed no signs of the damage that would have occurred if she had tried to squeeze through the small hole, and her shoes showed no signs of the damage that would have occurred from kicking a hole in the door.

The appeals court judges agreed and overturned her conviction on March 3, 2008. The presiding judge stated, "There are considerable doubts about the man's testimony."

After the court's decision was announced, the 38-year-old Kozakura told reporters, "I lost work after being charged, but justice prevailed in the end. I used to hate my body so much, but it was my breasts that won in court." Kozakura later appeared on Japan's Asahi television network and demonstrated that she can not fit through a hole 8-1/2" wide.

Sources:

Big breasts help actress to get conviction overturned, *Mainichi Daily News* (Tokyo, Japan), March 4, 2008.

Japanese bikini model acquitted: Tokyo High Court cites her 44-inch breasts, *Pinoyspy Reporter* website, March 4, 2008.



Serena Kozakura after her conviction was overturned

Dutch businessman Guus Kouwenhoven was convicted in the Netherlands in June 2006 of violating a United Nations arms embargo against Liberia. Kouwenhoven was the managing director of Oriental Timber Corporation (OTC) and owned 35% of the company's stock. His conviction was based on allegations that OTC smuggled AK-47s and anti-tank weapons into Liberia. Those arms were than allegedly used by Liberian supported militia groups to commit atrocities against civilians in the neighboring country of Sierra Leone.

The prosecution's theory was that in exchange for OTC's exclusive logging rights to large tracts of Liberian timber, Kouwenhoven agreed to provide the arms to aid then President Charles Taylor's plan to politically destabilize Sierra Leone so Liberia could gain access to its neighbor's diamond resources. OTC's agreement with Liberia granted the company exclusive logging rights to 3,953,686 acres (6,178 square miles, an area larger than Connecticut.), for which Liberia was paid 50% of the timber sale profits.

Kouwenhoven was considered by the United Nations to be a major player in the illegal arms trade. In 2001 the U.N. barred him from traveling to Liberia, and in 2004 he was added to the international banking community's "freeze list." That meant he could not legally access his financial assets estimated to be about \$70 million. The "freeze list" includes alleged terrorists, drug barons, arms dealers and dictators.

The prosecution's case that Kouwenhoven was an arms trader was based on witnesses deposed in Liberia. In response to the prosecution's claims, Kouwenhoven testified in his defense, "I never saw weapons on a ship in the port of Buchanan. I was never present when arms were handed out. I was never present at military meetings with Taylor. I never encouraged OTC personnel to go to the front lines." Acquitted of the war crimes charges that would have resulted in a sentence of life imprisonment, the 63-year-old Kouwenhoven was sentenced to eight years in prison for his arms embargo conviction.

Kouwenhoven appealed. After nine months imprisonment he was released in March 2007 pending his appeal's

Businessman's Arms Conviction Tossed

By JD Staff

outcome. During the appeal's oral arguments in February 2008, the prosecution argued for increasing Kouwenhoven's sentenced to 20 years and imposing a fine of \$675,000 (450,000 Euros). His attorney's argued that his conviction should be overturned because there was insufficient evidence that he (and OTC) had been involved in any arms shipments.

The 2006 movie *Blood Diamond* that starred Leonardo DiCaprio, was about the fighting in Sierra Leone during the period of time that Kouwenhoven was accused of supplying Liberia with arms to fuel the conflict.

On March 10, 2008, The Court of Appeal in The Hague announced its decision: Kouwenhoven was acquitted of the arms charges, and his acquittal of the war crimes charges was upheld. The Court's written decision stated, "The suspect must be acquitted of these deeds because of far-reaching lack of reliable evidence on which to base a conviction." Among other things, the Court noted that witnesses claimed to have seen an OTC ship deliver weapons to Liberia in late 1999, when the company didn't purchase that ship until months later in May 2000. The Court criticized the prosecution for not taking more seriously the extreme contradictions in the testimony of its witnesses that was fatal to its case. Kouwenhoven was acquitted because of the insufficient evidence and he can't be retried.

In 2003 former Liberian President Taylor was indicted for allegedly committing crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law. Taylor's trial by the Special Court for Sierra Leone began in June 2007 in The Hague. As of early April 2008 his trial was still ongoing.

Sources:

Kouwenhoven was accused of breaching Security Council Resolution 1343 adopted on March 7, 2001, that established an arms embargo against Liberia.

Charles Taylor's Dutch ally goes on trial for war crimes, *Radio Netherlands*, April 24, 2006.

Dutch appeals court acquits businessman of arms dealing in Liberia, *International Herald Tribune*, March 10, 2008.



Guus Kouwenhoven

