

Summary

Procedure – Rule 7 of Uniform Rules of Court – mandate of appellant's advocate – power of attorney signed day after advocate appeared – effect on proceedings – special power of attorney must be properly constituted when invalid, legal representative is not properly before court – order made when representative appeared without mandate erroneously given and therefore a nullity.

Criminal appeal – sentence – life imprisonment – murder of wife and children – appellant pleading guilty – trial Judge finding no substantial and compelling circumstances justifying departure from life sentence – appellant committed act of premeditation – principles on sentencing discretion of appeal court re-stated – nothing more serious than premeditated murder in our law – killing of intimate partners and children has reached unprecedented levels and has become a national crisis – this cannot continue unabated – burning of his wife and children showed cruelty – trial court did not err – life sentence confirmed