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IN THE HIGH COURT OF NEW ZEALAND
WANGANUI REGISTRY

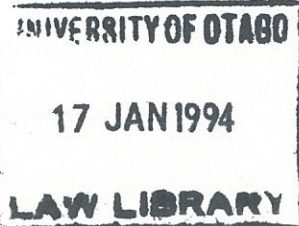
THE QUEEN

v.

JOHN EDWARD BRIDER

Sentence: 12 September 1991

Counsel: A.F.D. Cameron for the Crown
R.B. Crowley for the Prisoner



SENTENCE OF ELLIS J.

Prisoner at the bar, you appear for sentence in respect of the charge that has just been read out after a full trial which has been reported in the public newspapers. I don't propose therefore to go into the facts at all at this stage except to say that I accept in this case that you were under severe provocation from the man Ratana and I think it would be quite fair to say that little sympathy need be extended to him. However, as counsel has pointed out, the public roundly condemns the use of firearms, particularly automatic firearms. Under all the circumstances I would have been prepared to accept that the provocation did amount to special circumstances that would entitle me to consider a sentence that was not permanent custodial in nature. However there are two important factors that weigh with me. The first is that you deliberately went to get the gun out of the cupboard, and that in itself was a deliberate act that I consider with the utmost seriousness. Secondly,

there are the previous convictions which show that when you are in a situation of stress you take the drastic step of arming yourself either with a firearm or some other weapon. I accept the submissions from Mr Cameron that the circumstances of this case demand a custodial sentence, but I also accept Mr Crowley's last submissions that it should be in the nature of a short sentence which will bring home to you that you just are not to be associated with firearms at all in the future. The sentence will be nine months imprisonment.

I would hope that the Police will do their best to ensure that a firearm is not kept in this household.

ARM. G. J.
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Solicitors:

Armstrong Barton, Solicitors, Wanganui
Taylor Takarangi & Co, Solicitors, Wanganui