Mother of girl, 16, who was raped in hotel by three Somali men tells how the attackers' relatives terrified her throughout the trial

This would not have happened when I was a Court Clerk. I won't say that  ${m I}$  would not have allowed it, although as the Clerk  ${m I}$ was in charge of the court (not the Judge - he/she was in charge of the law, but not the room, and not the usher), but because before information of any intimidation by relatives had come to my notice the Police officers attached to the court would have been dealing with it, and reporting it to me. Now Court Clerks are lower grades, junior and lacking confidence and often running several courts at once leaving the immediate operation to the usher. And many ushers are no longer retired police officers or formidable matrons but recruited according to diversity. Any family attempting this would, at the very least have been hauled before the Judge the first day for Contempt of Court, and probably later facing charges themselves of attempting to pervert the course of justice. And there is still time for that. But I digress. From the Crown Court Manchester last week.

Osman, of Bowdon Avenue, Fallowfield; Ahmed, of Bexington Road, Whalley Range; and Yussuf, of Ravensoak Avenue, Levenshulme — have shown no remorse since they were found quilty of rape at a trial last year.



Bilal Ahmed, Mowled Yussuf and Muhyadeen Osman - look at those

arrogant expressions.

Yussuf, also found guilty of sexual assault by penetration, was sentenced to ten years behind bars; Osman, who was also found guilty of an unconnected robbery to 12 years, and Ahmed to nine. Two others have never been identified.