



**QORTI TAL-MAGISTRATI (MALTA)
BHALA QORTI TA' GUDIKATURA KRIMINALI**

**MAGISTRAT DR. JOSEPH MIFSUD
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**Il-Pulizija
(Spettur Roderick Agius)**

vs

Philip Abela

Kumpilazzjoni numru 257/2017

Illum 6 ta' Frar, 2018

Il-Qorti,

Rat l-imputazzjonijiet migjuba kontra l-imputat **Philip Abela** billi huwa akkuzat:

1. Talli nhar it-12 ta' Gunju 2017 ghall-habta tas-01:15hrs gewwa Triq Hal Luqa, Hal Qormi u f' dawn il-Gzejjer, minghajr il-hsieb li toqtol jew li tpoggi l-hajja ta' Antoinette Lamlum f' periklu car ikkaguna diversi offizi fuq il-persuna ta' Antoinette Lamlum, liema offiċi jitqiesu li huma gravi. (Art. 218, Art. 216 tal-Kap. 9 tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta)
2. U aktar talli fl-istess hin, lok u cirkostanzi, ghamel lil Antoinette Lamlum u/jew persuni ohra ingurji jew theddid mhux imsemmijien band'ohra fil-Kapitlu 9 tal-Kodici Kriminali tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta, jew jekk kien pprovokat, ingurja b' mod li johrog

barra mil-limiti tal-provokazzjoni. (Art. 339 (1)(e) Kap. 9 tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta)

3. U aktar talli fl-istess lok, hin u cirkostanzi, kiser il-buon ordni u l-paci pubblika b'ghajjat u glied.
4. U aktar talli fl-istess lok, hin u cirkostanzi ma obdjet l-ordnijiet legittimi tal-Awtorita' jew ta' persuni nkarigati minn servizz pubbliku, jew ma hallejthomx jew fixkilthom waqt il-qadi ta' dmirijiethom, jew b'xi mod iehor, bla jedd, indahal fi dmirijiethom, billi ma halliex lil haddiehor jaghmel dak li bil-Ligi jkun ordnat jew jista' jaghmel, jew billi gab fix-xejn jew hassar dak li haddiehor ikun ghamel skont il-Ligi. (Art. 338 (ee) Kap. 9)
5. U aktar talli fl-istess lok, hin u cirkostanzi ikkommetta serq ta' mazz ta' cwievet liema ser huwa aggravat bil-hin.
6. Finalment talli fl-istess lok, hin u cirkostanzi sar recevid ai termini ta' l-atikoli 49 u 50 tal-Kapitolu 9 tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta, b'sentenzi moghtija mill-Qrati ta' Malta, liema sentenzi saru definittivi u ma jistghux jigu mibdula jew imhassra.

Il-Qorti giet mitluba wkoll tohrog ordni ta' Protezzjoni ai termini tal-Artikolu 412C fejn tipprobixxi lill-imputat milli javvicina lil Antoinette Lamum u r-residenza taghha kif ukoll il-post li tali persuna tiffrekwenta.

KUNSIDERAZZJONIJIET LEGALI GENERALI

Illi qabel il-Qorti tghaddi biex taghmel il-kunsiderazzjonijiet taghha rigward l-imputazzjonijiet, il-Qorti ser tghaddi biex taghmel numru ta' konsiderazzjonijiet generali.

Livell ta' prova

Huwa principju baziku prattikat mill-Qrati taghna fil-procediment kriminali, li sabiex l-akkuzat jigi misjub hati l-akkuzi migjuba fil-konfront tieghu dawn ghandhom jigu pruvati oltre kull dubju dettat mir-raguni.

F'dan ir-rigward issir referenza ghas-sentenza moghtija mill-**Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali fil-5 ta' Dicembru 1997** fil-kawza fl-ismijiet **Il-Pulizija vs Peter Ebejer**, fejn il-Qorti fakkret li l-grad ta' prova li trid tilhaq il-Prosekuzzjoni hu dak il-grad li ma jhalli ebda dubju dettat mir-raguni u mhux xi grad ta' prova li ma jhalli ebda ombra ta' dubju. Id-dubji ombra ma jistghux jitqiesu bhala dubji dettati mir-raguni. Fi kliem iehor, dak li l-gudikant irid jasal ghalih hu, li wara li jqis ic-cirkustanzi u l-provi kollha, u b'applikazzjoni tal-buon sens tieghu, ikun moralment konvint minn dak il-fatt li trid tipprova l-Prosekuzzjoni. Fil-fatt dik il-Qorti ccitat l-ispjegazzjoni moghtija minn **Lord Denning** fil-kaz *Miller v Minister of Pension* - 1974 - ALL Er 372 tal-espressjoni 'proof beyond a reasonable doubt.'

"Proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean proof beyond the shadow of a doubt. The law would fail to protect the community if it admitted fanciful possibilities to deflect the course of justice. If the evidence is so strong against a man as to leave only a remote possibility in his favour, which can be dismissed with the sentence 'of course it is possible but not in the least probable', the case is proved beyond reasonable doubt, but nothing shall of that will suffice."

Fil-kawza fl-ismijiet **Il-Pulizija vs Graham Charles Ducker** (Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali - deciza fid-19 ta' Mejju, 1997) gie ritenut illi:

"it is true that conflicting evidence per se does not necessarily mean that whoever has to judge may not come to a conclusion of guilt. Whoever has to judge may, after consideration of all circumstances of the case, dismiss one version and accept as true the opposing one."

Din il-Qorti taghmel ukoll referenza ghas-sentenza moghtija mill-**Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali fid-9 ta' Settembru 2002** fil-kawza fl-ismijiet **Il-Pulizija v Martin Mark Ciappara** fejn spjegat x'jigri meta Gudikant ikun rinfaccjat b'verzjonijiet konfliggenti u cioe' jistghu jigru zewg affarijiet u cioe' jew il-Gudikant ikun tal-fehma li l-kaz tal-Prosekuzzjoni ma jkunx gie sodisfacentement ippruvat, u allura l-Qorti ghandha tillibera, jew jekk ikun moralment konvint li l-verzjoni korretta hija wahda u mhux l-ohra, jimxi fuq dik il-verzjoni li jaccetta u jekk dik il-verzjoni tkun timporta l-htija tal-imputat jew akkuzat, allura jiddikjara tali htija u jghaddi ghall-piena jew ghal xi provvedimenti iehor.

Apprezzament tal-provi fl-assjem

Il-Qorti tissottolinea li huwa ben risaput li l-apprezzament tal-provi ghandu jsir mhux biss b'mod spezzettat u individwali izda l-provi ghandhom jigu analizzati flimkien fl-assjem taghhom sabiex wiehed jara x'inferenzi jew interpretazzjoni ragjonevoli u legali jista' jaghti lil daww il-provi hekk interpretati. Ma tistax tinstab htija jew nuqqas ta' htija semplicement fuq analizi individwali jew separata tal-provi. Dawn

għandhom jigu kkunsidrati kemm individwalment kif ukoll komplessivament. Dan hu appuntu l-eżercizzju li sejra tagħmel din il-Qorti, u cioè' li tezamina bir-reqqa kollha l-provi prodotti f' dan il-kaz.

Illi għalhekk m'hemm dubju li kollox jiddependi fuq il-kredibilita` tax-xhieda u dan billi bhala Gudikant, il-Qorti sejra tagħti qies l-imgieba, il-kondotta u l-karattru tax-xhieda, tal-fatt jekk ix-xhieda għandiex mis-sewwa jew hix kostanti, u ta' fatturi oħra tax-xhieda u jekk ix-xhieda hix imsahha minn xhieda oħra, u tac-cirkostanzi kollha tal-kaz, u dan ai termini tal-Artikolu 637 tal-Kap 9 tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta.

Huwa principju baziku prattikat mill-Qorti tagħna fil-procediment kriminali, li biex l-akkuzat jigi ddikjarat hati, l-akkuzi dedotti, għandhom jigu ppruvati oltre kull dubju ragjonevoli, cioè' oltre kull dubju dettat mir-raguni.

Hawnhekk il-Qorti tagħmel referenza għal sentenza mogħtija mill-Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali nhar s-sebgha (7) ta' Settembru, 1994 fl-ismijiet '**Il-Pulizija v Philip Zammit et'** u tghid pero' li mhux kull l-icken dubju huwa bizzejjed sabiex l-imputat jigi ddikjarat liberat, hemm bzonn li *'dubbu jkun dak dettat mir-raguni.'*

L-ghodda biex tiddeciedi

Il-Gudikant li jkun se jiddeciedi kif ser jaghzel is-sikkrana mill-qamh?

It-twegiba nsibuha f' decizjonijiet li taw il-Qrati taghna:

Il-Gudikant għandu jezammina bir-reqqa l-provi rilevanti li jkollu quddiemu u mbagħad jiddeciedi l-kawza abbazi tal-ligi applikabbli, tal-gurisprudenza, u tal-provi li fl-opinjoni tiegħu huma konsistenti, konvincenti u korroboranti.¹

F' decizjoni tal-Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali moghtija fit-23 ta' Jannar, 2007 fil-kaz **Il-Pulizija vs Charles Bianco**² l-Imhalled Gianni Caruana Demajo kkummenta dwar meta jkun hemm deskrepanzi fix-xhieda:

Din il-Qorti kellha okkazzjoni tisma' x-xhieda u - hliet forsi għal ftit ecitament li jhossu xi xhieda meta jsibu ruħhom fl-ambjent ta' awla tal-Qorti, ukoll jekk ikunu familjari ma' dak l-ambjent izda jkunu qegħdin jixhdu *in rebus suis*, u aktar meta jkunu qegħdin jirrakkontaw episodju li għalihom kien trawmatiku - ma rat xejn "nevrasteniku" jew isteriku fix-xhieda ta' John Bonello. Id-diskrepanzi zgħar bejn ix-xhieda ta' John Bonello u dik tal-Avukat Irene Bonello, li baqgħu għalkemm, kif jgħid l-appellant fir-rikors tiegħu, "zgur kellhom hafna opportunitajiet li jitkellmu bejniethom dwar il-kaz u jfakkru lil xulxin x'gara dakinhar tal-allegat incident", aktar milli sinjal illi x-xhieda ma tistax toqghod fuqha huma sinjal illi x-xhieda ma kinitx orkestrata, u illi t-tnejn xehdu dak li ftakru u kienu onesti bizzejjed biex ma "jikkorregux" il-verzjonijiet biex igibuhom jaqblu ma' xulxin, għalkemm kellhom okkazzjoni jagħmlu hekk u għalkemm setgħu jobsru illi d-diskrepanzi x'aktarx kien sejjer jaqbad magħhom l-appellant biex johloq argument. Differenzi ta' dettal fil-mod kif

¹ Appell Civili Numru. 140/1991/2 - **Norbert Agius v. Anthony Vella et.**, deciz fil-25 ta' April, 2008 mill-Prim Imhalled Vincent De Gaetano u l-Imhallfin Joseph D. Camilleri u Joseph A. Filletti.

² Appell Kriminali Numru. 115/2006

xhud jara episodju trawmatiku huma haga normali u, sakemm fis-sostanza x-xhieda tkun taqbel, ma jfissrux illi dik ix-xhieda ghandha tigi skartata.

Artikolu 637 tal-Kapitolu 9 jipprovdi gwida cara lill-Gudikant kif ghandu japprezza xhieda ta' xhud:

Id-decizjoni tithalla fid-diskrezzjoni ta' min ghandu jiggiudika l-fatti, billi jittiehed qies tal-imgieba, kondotta u karattru tax-xhud, tal-fatt jekk ix-xiehda ghandhiex mis-sewwa jew hix konsistenti, u ta' fattizzi ohra tax-xiehda tieghu, u jekk ix-xiehda hix imsaħħa minn xiehda ohra, u tac-cirkostanzi kollha tal- kaz.

Presumption of facts u provi cirkostanzjali

Il-Qorti qabel tghaddi biex tanalizza l-imputazzjonijiet thoss li ghandha taghmel espozizzjoni dwar il-*presumption of facts* u l-provi cirkostanzjali.

Fi kliem Sir Rupert Cross,

Presumptions of fact (praesumptiones hominis) are merely frequently recurring examples of circumstantial evidence, and instances which have already been mentioned are the presumption of continuance, the presumption of guilty knowledge arising from the possession of recently stolen goods and the presumption of unseaworthiness in the case of a vessel which founders shortly after

*leaving port. These are all inferences which may be drawn by the tribunal of fact.*³

Bhala eżempju ta' prova indizzjarja li minnha wiehed jista' jigbed konkluzzjoni partikolari, l-istess awtur jaghti l-eżempju tad-drawwa (*habit*):

*The fact that someone was in the habit of acting in a given way is relevant to the question whether he acted in that way on the occasion into which the court is inquiring.*⁴

U fl-edizzjoni tal-2018 ta' **Archbold** jinghad hekk dwar presunzjonijiet ta' fatt:

These are inferences which the court may draw from the facts which are established, but it is not obliged to draw.

For example where a defendant charged with handling stolen goods is found to be in possession of those goods without any explanation, this circumstantial evidence may give rise to a provisional conclusion that the defendant is the handler of those goods.

In some cases a rebuttable presumption of law imposes a legal burden of proof which must be satisfied to the requisite standard

³ Cross, R., Cross on Evidence Butterworths (London), 1979, p. 124. Ikkwotat mill-Prim Imhalled Vicent Degaetano fl-Appell Kriminali Inferjuri Il-Pulizija vs Louis Gauci Borda deciz 24 ta' April, 2002: Appell Nru 228/2001

⁴ ibid. p. 40.

of proof in order to rebut the presumption, whereas some presumptions merely impose an evidential burden. For example, the presumption that a machine was working properly may be rebutted by merely adducing evidence to the contrary: *Tingle, Jacobs and Co v. Kennedy* [1964] 1 W.L.R. 638. In contrast, in order to rebut the presumption, created by section 74(3) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, that the defendant committed an offence of which he was convicted, the Court of Appeal has held that the defence must prove on the balance of probabilities that the defendant did not commit the offence: *Watson* [2006] EWCA Crim. 2308. Similarly, in *Miell* [2008] 1 Cr.App.R. 23, the Court of Appeal treated s.74(3) as shifting the burden of proof onto the accused. In *C* [2011] 1 Cr.App.R. 17, however, the Court of Appeal, without reference to *Watson*, referred, at p.225, to s.74(3) as creating an “evidential presumption” and indicated that “if the defendant does adduce evidence to demonstrate that he is not guilty of the offence, it remains open to the Crown then to call evidence to rebut the denial”. In *Clift* [2012] EWCA Crim. 2750 the Court of Appeal indicated that s.74(3) shifts the burden of proof to the defendant and that the prosecution is not required to prove to the criminal standard the matters covered by s.74(3). Equally, in *R. v. O’Leary* [2013] EWCA Crim 1371 the Court of Appeal held at para.19 that, “The effect of section 74(3) is that the defendant bears the burden of proving that he did not commit the offence”.

In *Zawadzka* [2016] EWCA Crim 1712, where evidence of a theft conviction committed in Poland by the defendant was admitted in a murder trial, the Court of Appeal accepted that the judge should have directed the jury that if the defendant proved on the balance of probabilities that she had not committed the offence then the jury should 'dismiss it from their minds'.

Even where a presumption imposes a legal burden of proof, if the imposition of a legal burden of proof upon the defence would give rise to a violation of art. 6(2) of the ECHR it may be necessary to read down the relevant statutory provision under section 3(1) of the Human Rights Act 1998, in line with the principles that were considered at §§ [10-11](#) and [10-12](#), *ante*, such that it merely imposes an evidential burden. Indeed, statute may expressly impose the evidential burden of rebutting a presumption upon the defendant. For example, in relation to the evidential presumptions about consent which section 75 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 created, s.75(1) provides that:

"... the complainant is to be taken not to have consented to the relevant act unless sufficient evidence is adduced to raise an issue as to whether he consented, and the defendant is to be taken not to have reasonably believed that the complainant consented unless sufficient evidence is adduced to raise an issue as to whether he reasonably believed it."

It appears that the effect of this provision is that the burden of disproving the relevant issue remains on the prosecution

provided that evidence that is not merely “fanciful or speculative” has been adduced to raise the issue: *Ciccarelli*[2011] EWCA Crim. 266.⁵

Huwa minnu li fl-**Artikolu 638(2) tal-Kap. 9** ix-xhieda ta' xhud wiehed biss, jekk emnut minn min ghandu jiggudika fuq il-fatt hija bizzejjed biex taghmel prova shiha u kompluta minn kollox, daqs kemm kieku l-fatt gie ppruvat minn zewg xhieda jew aktar. Ghalhekk jispetta lill-Qorti tara liema hija l-aktar xhieda kredibbli u vero simili fic-cirkostanzi u dan a bazi tal-possibilita'. Huwa veru wkoll li l-Qorti ghandha tqis provi cirkostanzjali jew indizzjarji sabiex tara jekk hemmx irbit bejn l-imputat u l-allegati reati. Dan qed jinghad ghaliex ghalkemm huwa veru li fil-kamp penali l-provi indizzjarji hafna drabi huma aktar importanti mill-provi diretti, pero' hu veru wkoll li provi indizzjarji jridu jigu ezaminati b'aktar attenzjoni sabiex il-gudikant jaccerta ruhu li huma univoci.

Fil-fatt il-Qorti hawnhekk taghmel referenza ghal-sentenza moghtija mill-Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali fil-hmistax (15) ta' Gunju, 1998 fil-kawza fl-ismijiet '**Il-Pulizija vs Jason Lee Borg**', fejn kien gie ritenut li provi jew indizzji cirkostanzjali ghandhom ikunu univoci, cioe' mhux ambigwi. Ghandhom ikunu indizzji evidenti li jorbtu lill-akkuzat mar-reati u hadd iktar, anzi l-akkuzat biss, li huma l-hati u l-provi li jigu mressqa, ikunu kompatibbli mal-presunzjoni tal-innocenza tieghu. Illi ghalhekk huwa importanti fl-isfond ta' dan il-kaz li jigi ppruvat li kien l-imputat biss li ghamel dak li gie akkuzat bih u ghalhekk il-Qorti sejra tikkunsidra kwalunkwe prova possibilment cirkostanzjali li tista' torbot lill-imputat

⁵ *Archbold: Criminal Pleading, Evidence and Practice* – 2018 Sweet & Maxwell (London), para. 10-15, p. 617-618.

b'mod univoku bir-reati addebitati lilu. Fil-fatt kif gie ritenut fis-sentenza moghtija mill-Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali fis-sitta (6) ta' Mejju, 1961 fil-kawza fl-ismijiet '**Il-Pulizija vs Carmelo Busuttil'**

"Il-prova ndizzjarja ta' spiss hija l-ahjar prova talvolta hija tali li iprova fatt bi precizjoni matematika."

Illi huwa veru li fil-kamp penali, il-provi indizzjarji hafna drabi huma aktar importanti mill-provi diretti. Hu veru wkoll li l-provi indizzjarji jridu jigu ezaminati b'aktar attenzjoni sabiex wiehed jaccerta ruhu li huma univoci.

Archbold jghid:

"Where reliance has been placed by the prosecution on circumstantial evidence the proper approach is to determine whether a reasonable jury properly directed would be entitled to draw an adverse inference from the combination of factual circumstances by dismissing other possible explanations in relation to that evidence: Jabber [2006] EWCA Crim. 2694; G [2012] EWCA Crim. 1756. In London Borough of Haringey v. Tshilumbe, 174 J.P. 41, a senior environmental health practitioner for the local authority had affixed a hygiene emergency prohibition notice to T's premises. After the notice was affixed he returned to the premises and found a group of individuals sitting at a table eating food from plates and drinking from cans. It was alleged that T had failed to comply with the notice as he had continued to operate the premises as a food business. The magistrates held that T had no case to answer as the local authority had produced no evidence that the food and drink that were on the table had been provided to the occupants of the premises by T in the course of a food business. It was held that justices had been

wrong to find that there was no case to answer; it could be inferred from the circumstances that the premises were being used for a food business and the defendant should have explained himself at trial. Strong circumstantial evidence may be sufficient for the court to find a case to answer: Danells [2006] EWCA Crim. 628.⁶

Illi din hija ezattament il-posizzjoni hawn Malta, kif fil-fatt giet konfermata b'sentenza moghtija mill-Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali nhar id-disgha ta' Jannar, 1998 fil-kawza fl-ismijiet '**Il-Pulizija vs Emanuel Seisun'**.

Din il-Qorti thoss u tghid li provi cirkostanzjali huma bhal katina li tintrabat minn tarf ghal tarf, b'sensiela ta' ghoqiedi li jaqblu ma' xulxin u li flimkien iwasslu fl-istess direzzjoni⁷.

Prezunzjoni tal-innocenza

Ir-rizultat huwa li fi proceduri penali l-onus ta' prova tistrieħ fuq il-Prosekuzzjoni matul il-kumpilazzjoni kollha, bhala regola generali u hija l-eccezzjoni li d-difiza trid tipprova xi haga, bhal perezempju d-difiza tal-insanita'.

Huwa principju fundamentali fi proceduri penali li persuna akkuzata hija prezunta innocenti sakemm ippruvata hatja, u dan ai termini tal-

⁶ Ibid. Pg. 533 para 8-119

⁷ Il-Qorti fliet fid-dettal l-argumenti migjuba fis-sentenza fl-ismijiet **Il-Pulizija vs Abdellah Berrard et** moghtija mill-Magistrat Consuelo Scerri Herrera fid-19 ta' Mejju 2014

Artikolu 40 Subinciz 5 tal-Kostituzzjoni ta' Malta, li jiddisponi is-segwenti:

"every person who is charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed to be innocent until he is proved or has pleaded guilty..."

Dan il-principju gie wkoll sanat fis-sentenza moghtija minn Sir Augustus Bartolo fl-ismijiet '**Il-Pulizija v Michele Borg et'** (deciza mill-Qorti tal-Appell Kriminali nhar it-13 ta' Mejju, 1936) fejn intqal:

"illi skont il-principju u s-sistema tal-ligi u procedura penali taghna mfassla fuq dak tal-Ingilterra u li huma strettament d'ordine pubblico; 'the accused is presumed innocent until proved guilty.' "

U issa ghalhekk wiehed jistaqsi: xi tfisser verament prezunzjoni tal-innocenza? Din tfisser li l-akkuzat ma jrid jipprova xejn dwar l-innocenza tieghu - hija l-Prosekuzzjoni li trid tipprova l-htija tieghu. Ghalhekk peress li hija l-Prosekuzzjoni li allegat il-htija tal-imputat, l-onus generali tal-prova, u cioe' tal-prova tal-htija, tistrieħ fuq il-Prosekuzzjoni, li ghandha ghalhekk tipprova kull element tar-reati partikolari sabiex tasal ghal din l-istess konkluzjoni.

Il-Prosekuzzjoni trid tipprova l-kaz taghha *beyond a reasonable doubt*, li tipprova kaz dettat bla dubju dettat mir-raguni, li tfisser li l-grad ta' buon sens jew ghaqal li jwassal gudikant sabiex jaqbel mat-tezi taghha u cioe' tal-Prosekuzzjoni.

L-obbligu li tipprova l-htija tal-akkuzat irid ikun assolut, oltre kull dubju dettat mir-raguni u f'kaz li jkun hemm xi dubju ragjonevoli, il-Prosekuzzjoni tigi kunsidrata li ma ppruvatx il-kaz taghha ta' htija u ghalhekk il-Qorti hija obbligata li tillibera.

Ikkunsidrat:

Il-Qorti trid tibaghat sinjal li l-vjolenza qatt m'ghandha tkun accettata fis-socjeta' u dan ghal ebda raguni.

Bhalma qalet il-Qorti fl-Appell Kriminali fl-ismijiet **Il-Pulizija v. Joseph Azzopardi** deciz fit-30 ta' Lulju 2004:

“Din il-Qorti, kemm kif illum presjeduta u kemm kif diversament presjeduta, kellha l-okkazjoni diversi drabi li tfisser li, bhala regola, meta si tratta ta' vjolenza fuq il-persuna l-piena ghandha tkun dik ta' prigunerija b'effett immedjat. Il-Qrati ta' Ġustizzja Kriminali ghandhom ikunu minn ta' quddiem biex b'mod deciziv jirripristinaw l-ordni pubbliku meta dan jigi sventrat mill-arroganza jew il-prepotenza li timmanifesta ruħha f'xi forma ta' vjolenza fizika.”

Skond guriprudenza ormai pacifika difatti, il-hsara li tammonta ghal sfregju trid tkun vizibbli minn distanza li hi dik “li soltu jkun hemm bejn in-nies meta jtkellmu ma'xulxin” (ara Appell Kriminali fl-ismijiet **Il-Pulizija v. Paul Spagnol**, 12 ta' Settembru 1996, Vol. LXXX.iv.279).

Fl-Appell Kriminali diga citat fl-ismijiet **Il-Pulizija v. Joseph Azzopardi**
Il-Qorti qalet hekk:

"Il-kwistjoni ta' jekk offiza hix wahda hafifa u ta' importanza zghira, hafifa, gravi jew gravissima hi wahda ta' fatt u ghalhekk rimessa ghall-gudikant tal-fatt (fil-kaz ta' guri, ghalhekk, rimessa f'idejn il-gurati; fil-kaz odjern rimessa f'idejn il-gudikant ta' l-ewwel grad - il-magistrat - u issa f'idejn l-Imhallef sedenti). Ma hix, ghalhekk, kwistjoni li tiddependi necessarjament jew esklussivament fuq 'opinjoni medika'. It-tabib jew tobbja jispjegaw x'irriskontraw bhala fatt; u, jekk il-qorti tippermettilhom, jistghu joffru l-opinjoni taghhom dwar, fost affarijiet ohra, kif setghet giet ikkagunata dik l-offiza, jew ma' x'hiex huma kompatibbli s-sintomi li jkunu gew klinikament riskontrati. Ikun jispetta mbaghad ghall-gudikant tal-fatt li, fid-dawl mhux biss ta' dak li jkun xehed it-tabib izda fid-dawl tal-provi kollha, jiddetermina n-natura ta' l-offiza."

F'dan il-kaz il-Qorti hi konvinta li l-imputat ikkaguna ferita ta' natura hafifa fuq il-kwerelanta.

Illi c-cirkostanzi ta' kull kaz huma partikolari ghal dak il-kaz u normalment ivarjaw radikalment mic-cirkostanzi ta' kull kaz iehor. Huwa impossibbli ghal-legislatur li jipprevedi dawn ic-cirkostanzi kollha u, a priori, jistabilixxi (ghal kull reat) piena specifika ghal kull sensiela ta' cirkostanzi differenti li fihom jista' jitwettaq dak l-istess reat.

Illi huwa propju ghalhekk illi ghal kull reat il-Ligi ma tistipulax piena fissa imma tistipula minimu u massimu; jispetta lill-Qorti biex fid-diskrezzjoni taghha, u entro dawk il-parametri, teroga dik il-piena

permezz ta' liema, skont ic-cirkostanzi ta' kull kaz, tipprova ssib dak il-bilanc gust bejn d-diversi skopijiet li ghandhom jintlahqu.

Illi dwar il-varji modi kif il-Qorti tista' titratta ma' persuna misjuba hatja ta' xi reat u x'evalwazzjoni ghandha ssir biex jigi stabbilit liema minn dawn il-modi jservi l-aktar lill-gustizzja, kellha l-opportunita tippronunzja ruhha l-Qorti ta' l-Appell Kriminali. Fis-sentenza mghotija fil-kawza **Il-Pulizija vs Maurice Agius**⁸ dik il-Qorti qalet hekk:

Huwa car..., li l-ewwel haga li qorti trid tiddecidi hi jekk il-kaz jimmeritax piena ta' prigunerija, b'mod li jigu eskluzi (jekk kienu talvolta applikabbli u mhux aprioristikament eskluzi mill-ligi stess) mizuri bhal ordinijiet maghmula taht l-Att dwar il-Probation jew multa. Jekk jigi stabbilit, tenut kont tac-cirkostanzi kollha, li l-kaz kien jimmerita prigunerija, il-gudikant irid jghaddi ghat-tieni stadju, u cioe` biex jiddetermina t-tul ta' tali prigunerija. Hawn ukoll il-gudikant ma jridx joqghod ihares lejn is-subartikolu (1) tal-Artikolu 28A u jipprova jara kif ibaxxi l-piena biex igibha ma teccedix is-sentejn. Il-piena ta' prigunerija trid tkun dik il-piena li oggettivament taghmel ghall-kaz, indipendentement minn jekk tkunx tista' tigi sospiza o meno. Huwa biss jekk il-piena hekk oggettivament stabbilita ma tkunx ta' aktar minn sentejn prigunerija li l-gudikant jghaddi ghat-tielet stadju, u cioe`biex jikkonsidra jekk ghandux jissospendi o meno tali piena (ghal periodu ta' mhux anqas minn sena u mhux izjed minn erba' snin). Huwa evidenti li l-ewwel haga li trid issir f'dana t-tielet istadju hi li wiehed jara jekk hemmx xi ostakolu statutorju ghal tali sospensjoni; jekk ma hemmx tali ostakoli, allura, u allura biss, tqum il-kwistjoni ta' jekk il-piena ta'

⁸ Deciza fit-13 ta' Novembru 2009.

prigunerija ghandhiex tigi sospiza u, jekk jkun jidhrilha li l-kaz ikun wiehed li fih sentenza ta' prigunerija ghandha tigi sospiza, x'ghandu jkun il-periodu operattiv taghha (cioe` ghal kemm zmien tibqa' hekk sospiza fuq ras il-hati).

Illi din il-Qorti hasbet fit-tul dwar il-piena idonea li ghandha tigi nflitta fic-cirkostanzi fil-konfront tal-imputat u minhabba c-cirkostanzi specjali tal-kaz jidrilha li piena karcerarja effettiva ma tkunx idonea fic-cirkostanzi.

DECIDE:

Ghal dawn il-mottivi Il-Qorti wara li hadet in konsiderazzjoni li l-imputat huwa ricediv, issibu hat ital-ewwel imputazzjoni izda ghal ferita hafif skont artikoli 221 tal-Kap 9 tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta u ma issbux hati ghall imputazzjoni numru 2, 3 u 5.

Izda fid-dawl tal-kunsiderazzjonijiet hawn fuq maghmula u b'applikazzjoni tal-Artikolu 22 tal-Kapitolu 446 tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta, il-Qorti qed tillibera lill-imputat bil-kundizzjoni li ma jikkommettiex reat iehor fi zmien tliet (3) snin millum.

Il-Qorti twissi lill-hatja bil-konsegwenzi skont il-Ligi jekk hija tikkommetti reat iehor matul dan il-perijodu ta' liberta' kundizzjonata.

In oltre, b'applikazzjoni tal-Artikolu 412C tal-Kapitolu 9 tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta, il-Qorti tqieghed lill-hati taht Ordni ta' Protezzjoni fil-konfront ta'

Antoinette Lamlum ghal tliet (3) snin millum skont id-digriet hawn
anness.

Dr. Joseph Mifsud
Magistrat