



In the Court of Magistrates (Malta)
as a Court of Criminal Judicature

MAGISTRAT DR. JOSEPH MIFSUD
B.A. (LEG. & INT. REL.), B.A. (HONS.), M.A. (EUROPEAN), LL.D.

The Police

Vs

Christopher Charles Collins

Today, 27th September 2018

The Court after seeing the charges issued against **Christopher Charles Collins** holder of British passport number 551492298 whereby he was charged with having on the the night 26 and 27 September 2018 while in an aircraft and during a Ryanair Flight FR3882 coming to Malta from Luton:

1. Recklessly or negligently acted in a manner likely to endanger an aircraft, or any person therein;
2. Used any threatening, abusive or insulting words, behaved in a threatening, abusive, insulting or disorderly manner towards a member of the crew and intentionally interfered with the performance by a member of the crew of the aircraft of his duties;
3. Entered or was found drunk in the same aircraft.

Having analysed the documents that were exhibited and all the records of the proceedings;

Having seen that the accused declared that he was guilty as charged.

The Court, in view of this declaration warned the accused in the most solemn manner about the consequences arising out of his guilty plea and granted him a reasonable time in order for him to retract this guilty plea.

After that the Court granted this time to the accused, and after consulting with his legal counsel, the accused reiterated that he is guilty as charged.

In view of this declaration, duly reiterated, the Court had no option but to find the accused guilty as charged.

Having heard the testimony produced and seen the records of the proceedings;

Having heard the final oral submissions of the Prosecuting Officer and of the Legal Counsel to the accused;

Considers the following :-

During the proceedings the accused expressed contrition in that he declared in open court that he was sorry for causing this incident.

This Court considers that this behaviour is unacceptable wherever it takes place. It becomes even more serious when committed on board of a confined and crowded space such as on board a flight.

Apart from the fact that other passengers and crew members had every right to travel in as calm as possible an ambience as it can be during a flight, the accused's drunken state on board a flight could also lead to serious consequences for himself as well as for others. And there is little room for taking such chances in mid-air.

Decides :-

Consequently, this Court, after having seen regulations 46, 48, 49(1) and 86 of L.S. 499.09 finds the accused **Christopher Charles Collins**, upon his unconditional guilty plea, guilty as charged and condemns him to three months imprisonment; however having seen Article 28A of the Criminal Code it orders that the said sentence shall not take effect

unless, during a period of one year from the date of this order, the offender commits another offence punishable with imprisonment.

In terms of Article 28A(4) of the Criminal Code, the Court declares and explains in ordinary language to the accused his liability in terms of Article 28B of the Criminal Code if during the operational period he commits an offence punishable with imprisonment.

Delivered today the 27th April 2017 at the Courts of Justice in Valletta, Malta.

**Dr. Joseph Mifsud
Magistrate**