

IN THE COURT OF MAGISTRATES (GOZO) AS A COURT OF CRIMINAL JUDICATURE

Magistrate Dr. Jean Paul Grech B.A., LL.D M.Juris (Int. Law), Adv. Trib. Eccl. Melit

JUDGEMENT

Given today, Friday the eleventh (11th) April 2025

Case Number 501/2024

The Police

(Senior Inspector Josef Gauci)

Vs

Kevin Hodkin

The Court,

Having seen the charges brought against **Kevin Hodkin**, son of George William Hodkin and Ivy Hodkin nee' Bunting, born on the eleventh (11th) of December 1954 in the United Kingdom, without a fixed address and holder of Maltese identity card number 0054602(A):

- for having on the twentieth (20th) of June 2024 at around half past eight in the morning (08:30hrs) at Victory Square, Xagħra, Gozo, and/or in the vicinities in these Maltese Islands:
- (1) uttered insults and threats to Lesley Karon Hodkin, in breach of article 339(1)(e) of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta;
- (2) and also in the date, time, place and circumstances, and on the sixth (6th) of July 2024 and/or in the preceding days and weeks, in these Islands, failed to observe or breached one or more conditions imposed on him by means of a Protection Order, which order was issued by Magistrate Dr. Jean Paul Grech LL.D. on the thirtieth (30th) of May 2024, where the Court provided protection for Lesley Karon Hodkin, and this in breach of article 412C of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta.
- in the circumstances mentioned above for having between the ninth (9th) of June 2024 and the sixth (6th) of July 2024 at different times, in Xagħra, Gozo, and/or elsewhere in these Maltese Islands, where the several acts committed by the offender, even if at different times, constitute violations of the same provision of the law, and were committed in pursuance of the same design:¹
- (3) failed to observe any of the conditions as imposed on himself on the first (1st) of June 2024 by a Court of Magistrates presided by Magistrate Dr. Simone Grech LL.D., and this in breach of articles 579 et seq. of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta.

The Court was kindly requested that in case of guilt, to treat Kevin Hodkin as a recidivist, in terms of articles 49 and 50 of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta.

The Court was humbly requested to order the revocation of bail and the rearrest of the accused Kevin Hodkin, and to order that the sum of one thousand and two hundred euros (€1,200) as personal deposit and personal

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¹ Article 18 of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta.

guarantee, are passed in favour of the Government of Malta, and this in terms of articles 579 et seq. of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta.

The Court was also kindly requested to provide for the safety of the injured party Lesley Karon Hodkin, in terms of articles 382A, 383 and 412C of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta.

Having seen the documents exhibited by the Prosecuting Officer;

Having heard the evidence submitted;

Having seen that during today's sitting the accused pleaded guilty to all the charges brought against him;

Having warned the accused in the most solemn manner about the legal consequences emanating from such a declaration of guilt;

Having given him adequate time to reconsider his guilty plea;

Having heard the accused reconfirm his guilty plea;

Having seen that there are no valid reasons in accordance with article 392A(3) of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta for the Court to doubt whether the offences have really taken place and nor to doubt whether the accused is guilty of the offences brought against him;

Having heard submissions on punishment by the Prosecuting Officers and the Defence;

Considers:

The facts of the case are as follows: on the twenty-first (21st) of June 2024, Lesley Karon Hodkin together with her lawyer Dr Nadine Stivala filed a report at the Victoria Police Station. Both stated that on the ninth (9th) of June 2024, at approximately half past ten (10:30hrs), the accused was seen

in Gorf Street, Xagħra near Calypso Cave. A couple of days later precisely on the thirteenth (13th) of June 2024 and the subsequent days, the accused was also seen at Café Royale in Xagħra. As per bail conditions to which the accused was subject, the same accused was prohibited from approaching the village of Xagħra. Complainants also reported that on the twentieth (20th) of June 2024, the accused had approached his ex-wife, he gave her his new address and he insulted her using offensive language and obscene gestures. This was in breach of the Protection Order which was issued on the thirtieth (30th) of May 2024. The accused was arrested after that a warrant of arrest was issued against him and was eventually charged in court under arrest so that he could answer to these charges.

Considers;

Since the accused admitted to the charges, the Court has no option but to find the accused guilty of all charges brought against him.

• Decide:

Consequently following the accused's unconditional guilty plea, the Court after having seen articles 17, 49, 50, 339(1)(e), 412C(1)(11), and article 579(2) of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta, is finding the accused guilty of all charges brought against him and is condemning him to three (3) months effective imprisonment. From this term of imprisonment, the time which the offender has already spent under preventive custody in connection with this particular case is to be deducted.

Furthermore, after having seen article 579(2) of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta, the Court is ordering that the amount of two hundred euro (€200) is forfeited in favour of the Government of Malta. This deposit was imposed by virtue of the Court decree dated first (1st) of June 2024 issued by Magistrate Dr Simone Grech wherein the offender was granted bail.

Finally, since the Court has already imposed a restraining order against the offender and in favour of Lesley Karon Hodkin for the maximum term

allowed by law in another judgment given today against the same offender, the Court will not be imposing a second restraining order.

(sgd.) Dr. Jean Paul Grech Magistrate

(sgd.) Diane Farrugia
Deputy Registrar

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For The Registrar