

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

Magistrate Dr Aaron M. Bugeja M.A. Law, LL.D. (melit)

The Police

(Inspector Silvio Magro)

vs

Shannon-Leigh Williams

The Court after seeing the charges in respect of **Shannon-Leigh Williams** holder of United Kingdom Passport number GBR 520902159 and having charged her with having on the 8th June 2015 at MIA at about 10:30 committed theft of one luggage containing various items (female clothing) to the detriment of Isabella Bartoli for the total amount of more than two hundred thirty two euros ninety four cents but under two thousand, three hundred and twenty nine euros and thirty seven cents.

Having seen that the prosecuting officer confirmed the charge on oath during the sitting of the 10th June 2015.

Having seen that the accused, in reply to the question posed in terms of Article 392(1)(b) of the Criminal Code by the Court declared that she was not guilty.

Having seen however that during the subsequent sitting held on the 24th June 2015, the accused registered a guilty plea.

The Court, in view of this declaration warned the accused in the most solemn manner about the consequences arising out of her guilty plea and granted her a reasonable time in order for her to retract this guilty plea. After that the Court granted this time to the accused, and after consulting with her legal Counsel, the accused reiterated that she was guilty as charged.

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

Having seen the records of the proceedings as well as the criminal record sheet of the accused.

Having also seen the report filed by the representative of the Director of Probation and Parole Joanna Farrugia.

Having heard the final oral submissions of the Prosecuting Officer and of the Legal Counsel to the accused namely : -

1. that the Court could consider this guilty plea as being registered at one of the earliest possible stage of these proceedings;

2. The stolen goods were returned in good shape to their rightful owner;
3. The criminal record sheet of the accused was immaculate;
4. The recommendation made by the Probation Officer made sense in the circumstances.

Decides :-

Consequently, that after having seen Articles 261(c), 263(a), 264(1), 265, 267, 279(a) and 280(2) of the Criminal Code finds the accused **Shannon-Leigh Williams**, upon her unconditional guilty plea, guilty as charged and condemns her to twelve 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 two years from the date of this order, the offender commits another offence punishable with imprisonment and thereafter the competent court so orders under Article 28B of the Criminal Code that the original sentence shall take effect.

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

In terms of Article 392A(1)(2) of the Criminal Code, the Court orders that the records of the proceedings together with this judgment be transmitted to the Attorney General within six working days.

Delivered today the 1st December 2015 at the Courts of Justice in Valletta, Malta.

Aaron M. Bugeja.