

# **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 Spiridione Zammit)**

**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 1st August 2015 at about 3pm and time after, whilst at Corradino Correctional Facility in Paola and/or in these islands :

- (1) without intent to kill or to put the life of another person in manifest jeopardy caused harm to the body or health of WC024 Alison Vassallo as a person lawfully charged with a public duty that is of a grievous bodily harm as medically certified by Dr. Marie Ciantar Reg No. 1608 from Paola Health Centre.
- (2) Also with having under same circumstances assaulted or resisted by violence or active force not amounting to public violence on WCO24 Alison Vassallo and WSCO Mary Azzopardi as persons lawfully

charged with a public duty, and/other persons when in the execution of the law or of a lawful order issued by a competent authority.

(3) Furthermore accused with having under same circumstances reviled, or threatened or caused a bodily harm to WCO24 Alison Vassallo and WSCO Mary Azzopardi as persons lawfully charged with a public duty, and/ or other persons while in the act of discharging their duty or because of their having discharged such duty, or with intent, to intimidate or unduly influence them in the discharge of such duty.

(4) Also accused with having under the same circumstances disobeyed lawful orders of any authority or of any person entrusted with a public service that is of WCO24 Alison Vassallo and WSCO Mary Azzopardi and / or other persons, or hindered or obstructed such persons in the exercise of their duties or otherwise unduly interfered with the exercise of such duties either by preventing other persons from doing what they are lawfully enjoined or allowed to do, or frustrating or undoing what has been lawfully done by other persons or in any other manner whatsoever, unless such disobedience or interference falls under any other provision of this Code or of any other law.

(5) Furthermore with having under same circumstances uttered insults to WCO24 Alison Vassallo and WSCO Mary Azzopardi as persons lawfully charged with a public duty or threatened any threats not otherwise provided for in Chapter 9 of the Criminal Code of Malta;

(6) Furthermore with having under same circumstances attempted to use force against any person that is of WCO24 Alison Vassallo and WSCO Mary Azzopardi and / or other persons with intent to insult, annoy or hurt such persons or others unless the fact constitutes some other offence under any other provision of the Criminal Code of Malta;

(7) In case of conviction the Court is requested to apply Art 33A of Chapter 9 so that the punishment is increased by one or two degrees.

(8) In case of conviction the Court is also requested to provide for the personal security of WCO24 Allison Vassallo and /or WSCO Mary Azzopardi as persons lawfully charged with a public duty and apply the Articles 383, 384 and 385 of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta.

Having seen that the prosecuting officer confirmed the charges on oath during the sitting of the 2nd August 2015.

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

Having heard and received the evidence of the Prosecution.

Having seen however that during the sitting of the 18th November 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 in particular the testimony of the victim and of Dr. Joseph Spiteri.

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

**Decides :-**

Consequently, that after having seen Articles 17(d)(h), 33A, 95, 96(a), 214, 216(1)(b), 338(ee), 339(1)(d)(e), 383, 384 and 385 of the Criminal Code finds the accused **Shannon-Leigh Williams**, upon her unconditional guilty plea, guilty as charged and, after having seen the circumstances of the case, as well as the special and exceptional circumstances that emerge in this case, in particular from the conclusions reached by Dr. Joseph Spiteri as shown in his testimony, condemns her to nine (9) months imprisonment and to a fine of four thousand euro (€4,000). The fine may be paid within a period of three years from the date of this judgment by means of monthly instalments.

In order to provide for the safety of WCO24 Allison Vassallo and WSCO Mary Azzopardi the Court is requiring the guilty party to enter into her recognisance to the sum of two thousand euro (€2000) for a period of one year from the date of this judgment.

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.*