

**THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES, PLAINTIFF-APPELLEE, VS.
LEONARDO MAALA ALIAS NARDING, ACCUSED-APPELLANT.***G.R. No. L-37792. June 24, 1983*

Ponente: AQUINO, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/116631898abd/>**AQUINO, J.:**

Leonardo Maala appealed from the decision of the Court of First Instance of Batangas, Balayan, Branch VII, convicting him of rape and sentencing him to reclusion perpetua. No indemnity was imposed. (Criminal Case No. 232.)

According to the prosecution, while Elena Maala, 16, was sleeping inside her room at her house located at Barrio Mataas na Bayan, Lemery, Batangas in the early morning of August 17, 1971, she was awakened at about three o'clock by the fact that a person was on top of her.

She recognized that person as Leonardo Maala, a neighbor and a married man, who was armed with a gun. He placed his hand on her mouth and threatened to shoot her if she would not yield to his libidinous desire. He struck her shoulder with his gun, mashed her breasts, tore her dress and removed her panty (Exh. A and B).

Maala was able to have carnal knowledge of her. Because of the pain, she lost consciousness. When she regained consciousness, Maala was no longer in the house. Her weeping awakened her sister, Teodora, who slept in the "comedor". It was her first sexual intercourse. Maala was not her friend. (15 tsn, March 28, 1972.) (The relationship between them is not shown in the record.)

Her mother, Trinidad Obrador, who was not in the house at the time, returned home that same morning of August 17 and reported the rape to the Constabulary Detachment at Barrio Mahayahay, Lemery where Elena narrated the incident in a sworn statement (Exh. C).

The medical examination on the same day revealed lacerations of the hymen at the 5 and 9 o'clock positions "with slight congestion" and mucoid discharge at the vaginal orifice. The doctor found that Elena had contusions on both cheeks, breasts and right shoulder (Exh. E). The examining doctor testified that the lacerations in the hymen were still fresh and had been caused within twenty-four hours prior to the medical examination.

Maala, 19, a farmer, admitted that he had sexual intercourse with Elena but claimed that it was with her consent because she was his sweetheart. He said that it was the seventh sexual intercourse, the first having taken place on July 3, 1971 in the "batalan" of her house. He showed Elena's mother his diary to convince her that she was his sweetheart. The mother threw away the diary, allegedly beat Elena and forced her to file the complaint. However, the accused did not present the said diary in evidence although it was not shown to have been irretrievably lost.

The trial court regarded the defense of the accused as fabricated and unworthy of credence. In this appeal, the counsel de oficio contends that the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses are incredible, that the trial court did not take into consideration defendant's evidence and that the guilt of the accused was not proven beyond reasonable doubt. These contentions are devoid of merit. The accused failed to point out what portions of the

testimonies were unreliable. His argument contained very little discussion of the factual issues.

Judge Jaime de los Angeles made an exhaustive analysis of the evidence for the prosecution and refuted the contentions of the accused. He arrived at the conclusion that the prosecution's evidence considerably outweighs the evidence presented by the defense.

The fact that no time was lost in reporting the case to the Constabulary and in having the offended girl examined shows that the charge was not a frameup, as pretended by the accused. No decent girl would expose herself to the scandal of having been raped by a married man and undergo the ordeal and trouble of a public trial if the charge were not true.

The crime is qualified rape because the accused was armed with a gun which he used in hitting the shoulder of the victim. The crime was aggravated by nocturnity and dwelling. Qualified rape is punished with reclusion perpetua to death. For lack of necessary votes, the death penalty cannot be imposed.

The trial court failed to impose an indemnity. The accused is ordered to pay the victim an indemnity of twelve thousand pesos (Art. 345, Revised Penal Code).

WHEREFORE, the trial court's judgment is affirmed with the modification that the accused should pay Elena Maala an indemnity of twelve thousand pesos. Costs against the accused.

SO ORDERED.

Fernando, C.J., Teehankee, Makasiar, Concepcion Jr., Guerrero, Abad Santos, De Castro, Melencio-Herrera, Plana, Escolin, Vasquez, Relova and Gutierrez, Jr., JJ., concur.

ABOUT BATAS.ORG

Study smarter at BATAS.org

The Philippine bar review and law-school companion built around how your brain actually remembers.

The complete Philippine law library - free for everyone.

More than 100,000 Supreme Court decisions, Republic Acts, and executive issuances - full-text searchable, browsable by category and year, and always free. No paywall, no login. This PDF came from it.

Audio case-brief lectures.

Any decision becomes a podcast-style lecture - facts, issues, ruling, and doctrine - with read-along highlighting and a hands-free presentation mode. Study while commuting, working out, or resting your eyes.

Bar review built on the science of memory.

Complete, sequenced courses for all eight bar subjects, narrated like podcasts and reinforced with retrieval practice and spaced review - the study techniques with the strongest evidence behind them.

The full law-school curriculum.

One subscription unlocks the entire J.D. curriculum - every subject, every lesson, with your progress tracked down to the paragraph so you can pick up exactly where you left off, on any device.

Mock exams that tell you where you stand.

Timed multiple-choice exams graded instantly, with per-subject score breakdowns and focus suggestions that point you at your weakest topics first.

A study planner that keeps you on pace.

Set your schedule and BATAS tells you every day whether you are on track for bar day - and exactly which lesson to take next.

Start free at <https://batas.org>

The law library is free forever - and your first lesson is one click away.

The text of this document is an official public record and remains in the public domain. Formatting, presentation, and compilation © 2026 batas.org.

Downloaded free from the batas.org Law Library. Share it freely - the library is free for every law student, bar reviewee, and practitioner.