

THE UNITED STATES, PLAINTIFF AND APPELLEE, VS. MANUEL CATALAN, DEFENDANT AND APPELLANT.

G.R. No. 11487. July 22, 1916

Ponente: MORELAND, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/g-r-no-11487/>

MORELAND, J.:

The information in this case charges that:

"On or about the month of May, 1900, within the municipality of Cabatuan, Province of Iloilo, P. I., the said accused voluntarily, illegally and criminally and with known premeditation and treachery, * * * killed Valentin Jordan by shooting him with a gun which he had on that occasion."

The accused was duly tried and found guilty of murder and sentenced to twenty years of cadena temporal. He appealed.

The Attorney-General recommends that the accused be acquitted on two grounds: The first one is that the guilt of the appellant has not been proved beyond reasonable doubt; and second, if it has been proved that the appellant killed the deceased, it was under such circumstances as exempt him from responsibility under the Amnesty Proclamation of the President of the United States issued the 4th of July, 1902.

We agree with the Attorney-General in his recommendation. The evidence of the prosecution is not satisfactory in the first place, and, in the second place, it has been clearly established by the defense that Jordan was shot by virtue of the decision of a court-martial instituted by officers of the revolutionary army in the Philippines in the month of May, 1900, finding the deceased guilty of being a spy and a bandolero. Nicanor Patrimonio who testified in the case for the defense said that he was an official of the revolutionary army of the Philippines and that he instituted a court-martial in May, 1900, for the purpose of trying the deceased Jordan on a charge of being a spy and a highway robber. He named the persons who were the members of the court-martial and the witnesses who testified before it and gave in substance their testimony; he said that the court-martial, after due deliberation, found Jordan guilty of being a spy acting for the American Army and of being also a bandolero; and that he was shot as a result of the judgment of conviction brought in against him by the court-martial. Other evidence was presented in strong corroboration of the testimony of this witness, and we are satisfied that Jordan met his death in the manner related.

The judgment of conviction is reversed and the accused is acquitted. An order will be immediately issued for his release from imprisonment, without waiting for the usual time for this judgment to become final. So ordered.

Torres, Johnson, Trent, and Araullo, 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.