

THE UNITED STATES, PLAINTIFF AND APPELLEE, VS. MANUEL RODRIGUEZ ET AL., DEFENDANTS AND APPELLANTS.*G.R. No. 6343. March 11, 1911*

Ponente: MORELAND, J.

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/g-r-no-6343/>**MORELAND, J.:**

This is an appeal from a judgment of the Court of First Instance of the Moro Province, Hon. Herbert D. Gale presiding, convicting the accused of the crime defined and punished in section 1 of Act No. 619, and sentencing each one of them to ten years in prison and a fine of P20,000, to subsidiary imprisonment in case of insolvency, and to pay one-fourteenth part of the costs.

It appears from the proofs adduced by the Government that on Sunday, the 6th of June, 1909, at about 10.30 o'clock at night, twenty-three of the soldiers composing the Second Company of Constabulary stationed at Davao mutinied. During the progress of the mutiny they shot Lieut. Antonio de Goicuria, one of the officers of said company, wounding him in the left leg. Having thrown off all control, they started to flee from the locality. For this purpose they divided themselves into two groups, one passing along Calle San Pedro and the other along Calle Magallanes in said village. The group which passed along Calle San Pedro encountered Lieutenant De Balaine of the Constabulary and the governor of the district, Mr. Walker, at whom they fired several shots. The soldiers thus mutinying, among whom were the fourteen appellants in this case, were under the leadership of Serg. Manuel Rodriguez, one of the appellants, and one Serg. Felix Academia. Having passed through the city in this manner, the two groups united at the Davao ford and, crossing the river, marched to the mountains of Lipadas, where they remained until the 8th day of said month of June, on which date they returned and attacked the village of Davao.

That the appellants in this case mutinied against their superior officers in the manner described is unquestioned. Those of the accused who testified in their own behalf admitted the fact. So clear is the case that a detailed discussion of the facts would be idle.

No general defense was presented by the appellants. Two or three, among them Manuel Rodriguez, asserted that they were forced to join the mutineers by Sergeant Academia, who seized them and under threat to kill them compelled them to go with him. There is substantially nothing in the evidence which justifies such defense. Every act of those who set up such defense is distinctly in contradiction to the allegations. That the appellants each and every one were guilty of mutiny, voluntarily and willfully, is so clear from the record as to make it entirely useless to detail the proofs. The defendants generally, while not offering a defense, present as an excuse for the mutiny the abuse to which they had been severally subjected at the hands of their superior officers, including Lieutenant De Goicuria, whom they assaulted and shot during the mutiny. That they were treated harshly and were abused to some extent is unquestioned. Under all of the facts of the case, however, we are of the opinion that such treatment ought not to weigh in favor of the appellants. They had within their power a method by which such abuses could be corrected and this is the course that they should have followed. Their conduct during the mutiny, and the acts of spoliation and murder committed subsequent thereto, leave no room for

leniency.

For these reasons, the judgment appealed from is affirmed, with the costs against the appellants.

Arellano, C. J., Mapa, Carson, and Trent, 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.