

Man (56) on Tragumna drugs charges pleads to see sick wife back in Spain

BY DAVID FORSYTHE

A MAN who is one of 10 accused of conspiring to import drugs into Ireland as part of an alleged international drugs gang has pleaded with the District Court to expedite his case because his wife is seriously ill at home in Spain.

Juan Antonio Gallardo, 56, of 12 Turina Street, Cadiz, Spain appeared via video link from Cork Prison at Mallow District Court. Court presenter Sgt Majella O'Sullivan told the court that it was the State's application to remand Mr Gallardo in custody with consent until November 12th when it was expected that directions from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) would be available.

Defence solicitor David O'Meara said

that on that basis he was advising Mr Gallardo to agree to a further three-week remand.

Mr Gallardo told the court that he had been in prison for seven months and that his wife was suffering from cancer. He said that it was a very serious situation and he had been unable to see her because he was in custody. Judge Colm Roberts said that he was very aware of Mr Gallardo's personal circumstances 'which is why I want this matter to progress as soon as it can.'

Also appearing before the court was co-accused Aleksander Milic, 27, of Svetorgorska 15, Flat 5, Belgrade, Serbia. Sgt O'Sullivan made a similar application in his case to remand him in custody for a further three weeks to await directions

from the DPP. Mr O'Meara, who also represented Mr Milic, advised his client to agree to the three-week remand on the understanding that directions would be ready at the next hearing.

Judge Roberts remanded both men in custody by consent to appear by video link on November 12th for DPP directions. The judge said that he was willing to adjourn the matter once more.

The two men are charged with conspiracy with others to import controlled drugs in excess of €13,000 between last February 27th and March 14th into the State. They were arrested in West Cork when gardai stopped a truck and an SUV at Tragumna pier and a camper van in the village of Leap as part of an ongoing operation into alleged organised crime.



The charges were brought after gardai searched a truck near Tragumna pier last March. (Photo: Andy Gibson)

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Emma's articles are shortlisted for national awards

TWO articles by freelance journalist Emma Connolly which appeared in *The Southern Star* have been shortlisted for this year's Headline Mental Health Media Awards.

The awards recognise excellence in media coverage of mental health issues across all platforms.

In the print and online category for local publications, Emma has two stories on the five-strong shortlist: 'Concern over rise in school refusal' about the rise in school and college dropout rates and 'We took matters into our own hands', about how fishing representative Patrick Murphy took a course in childcare and trained as an SNA when his child received a diagnosis of ADHD, dyslexia and dyspraxia, to better understand the conditions.

Both articles appeared in *The Southern Star* this year.

Headline is a national programme of Shine, an Irish mental health charity that



One of the shortlisted articles was an interview with fishing rep Patrick Murphy.

supports people with lived experience of mental illness and their families and supporters.

'We developed these awards as we felt it is important to recognise excellence in mental health media reporting and coverage. It was great to see the strong level of interest in the awards this year,' said Shine chief executive Nicola Byrne.

The 11 award categories are designed to highlight work from all platforms across local, national, and online media. The winners will be announced at the Mental Health Media Awards on December 4th.

GETTING SOCIAL Friends celebrate BAs at MTU



Leah Kingston from Macroom, Emily Gould from Tipperary, Simone Coughlan from Fountains town, Sophie Flemming from Carrigaline, and Amy Keane from Passage West, celebrating their graduation with a BA in social care work at MTU's Bishopstown Campus during the Autumn 2024 conferring ceremonies last week. (Photo: Joleen Cronin)

'Messy shopper' is fined for shop thefts

A MUM-of-two described as a 'messy shopper' has been convicted and fined €500 for 16 charges of theft from an Enniskeane supermarket over a two-month period.

Zdenka Badlikova (43) of Lissicorrane, Enniskeane Road pleaded guilty to all 16 charges of theft at Bandon District Court last week.

Sgt Trish O'Sullivan told Judge Mark O'Connell that the 16 theft charges occurred at O'Donovan's Centra in Enniskeane over a two-month period from February 16th to May 5th of this year.

'The manager of the store contacted gardai about a woman known to her who had taken groceries from the store on 16 different times without paying for them,' said Sgt O'Sullivan. 'She would put some grocery items in her basket and pay for them at the till while she also put items in her bag without paying for them. All the incidents were captured on CCTV and the total value of goods stolen was €418.'

The court heard that none of the items were recovered

and that the defendant has no previous convictions.

Defence solicitor Plunkett Taaffe said his client is originally from Slovakia but has been living here in Ireland since 2009.

'She works as a volunteer in an animal sanctuary and earns below the minimum wage. When shopping she would be asked by others to get items for them,' said Mr Taaffe. 'She was a messy shopper and it went out of control. She does have €418 in court here to reimburse the shop. She also accepts that she is no longer welcome in the shop.' Mr Taaffe added that she apologises for her 'messy shopping'.

Judge Mark O'Connell was told that she has not come to garda attention before or since the incidents.

He convicted and fined her €500 in respect of one of the 16 charges and took into consideration the remainder of the charges. 'That's a very light penalty and this court will come down heavier next time if she resumes her offending,' said the judge.

Glenkeen Garden inspires new show

AN art exhibition in Dublin which opened this week features the work of a four international artists working in Ballydehob.

The multimedia project explores our complex relationship with plastics and their effects on our environment and runs at the Goethe-Institut Ireland in Merrion Square.

The *Glenkeen Variations: With or Without You* exhibition features work by four international artists who participated in the Glenkeen Garden Residencies, an artist-in-residence programme located in West Cork.

The artists are Filipa Pettersson from Sweden, Kristin Reiman from Estonia, and Carolin Liebl and Nikolas Schmid-Pfähler from Germany. The artists were inspired by the unique natural context of Glenkeen Garden and its setting on Roaringwater Bay. The exhibition is the third and final instalment of the series, presented jointly by the Goethe-Institut Ireland and the Crespo Foundation.

The Glenkeen Garden was created near the West Cork



Carolin and Nikolas in the garden.

village by the late German photographer, psychologist, and philanthropist Ulrike Crespo and her partner Michael Satke over a period of 20 years.

Since 2021, the Crespo Foundation has welcomed artists working across different disciplines to the Glenkeen Garden estate for three-month residencies.

The exhibition runs until December 7th. The exhibition will be accompanied by artist talks and presentations, and an artist talk in the National Sculpture Factory in Cork on Friday, November 8th; and artist presentations at the Working Artist Studios in Ballydehob on Saturday, November 9th.

Reprimand for man after threat to shove radio down garda's throat

A BALLINSPIITTLÉ man who threatened to shove a radio down a garda's throat was told by a district court judge that it is not acceptable to lash out at gardai.

Judge Mark O'Connell made the comment when dealing with the case of William Lordan at Bandon District Court.

Mr Lordan of Ballinverdig, Ballinspittle pleaded guilty to the obstruction of gardai as well as threatening to kill or cause serious harm to a garda.

Sgt Trish O'Sullivan told the court that at 5.30pm on August 19th, 2023 the defendant's estranged wife made a complaint to gardai about him.

'Gardaí arrived at her home and took items belonging to him and told him not to contact her again. He lives in a mobile home and began shouting and verbally abusing the gardai.'

The court heard that Mr Lordan said he would shove the garda radio down the throat of one garda and that 'he'd get it'.

'His fists were clenched and they arrested him, but he continued to resist arrest. They placed him in the back of the patrol car but had to remove him as he was kicking the inside of the car. A garda van had to be sent eventually to bring him to the garda station.'

The court heard he has five previous convictions which include road traffic and public order offences.

Defence solicitor Myra Dinneen said her client, who is a father to two children, developed a drink problem during the pandemic.

'Covid didn't suit him and he has been for alcohol treatment at Tabor Lodge. He has no memory of the events and the gardai did handle him well as he was

very fragile and has an alcohol addiction. He has a good relationship with his estranged wife and his children.'

Ms Dinneen said he is living in a mobile home and isn't working as he is currently disqualified from driving and she requested if a probation report could be prepared on him.

However, Judge Mark O'Connell declined her request.

'Lashing out at gardai and being aggressive to them is not acceptable. They have a difficult job to do as it is,' said Judge O'Connell.

He convicted and fined him €500 on the threat to cause harm, giving him three months to pay the fine, and he took into consideration the obstruction charge. 'He needs to get back into the workplace and living remotely is not an excuse to do nothing.'

Vótáil **AONTÚ** 1

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PUBLIC MEETING DATES

Mon 4 Nov • Charleville Park Hotel • 8pm

Thu 7 Nov • Ballincollig GAA Club • 8.30pm

Fri 8 Nov • Coolcower House, Macroom • 8pm

Mon 11 Nov • Pomeroy's Clara Inn, Millstreet • 8pm