# Legal Case Summary

Case Title: Aslam Alias Imran vs The State Of Madhya Pradesh

Citation: 2025 INSC 403

Date of Judgment: 27 March 2025

Bench: Justice B.R. Gavai, Justice Augustine George Masih

Author of Judgment: Justice B.R. Gavai

## Parties Involved

Appellant: Aslam Alias Imran

Respondent: The State of Madhya Pradesh

## Background / Facts of the Case

On 22 August 1994, Aslam Alias Imran allegedly stabbed the deceased, Zahid Khan alias Guddu, during a street quarrel, causing fatal injuries. He was convicted by the Sessions Court under Section 302 IPC and sentenced to life imprisonment. The conviction was upheld by the High Court. The Supreme Court was approached in appeal, primarily on grounds that the evidence was unreliable, contradictory, and did not prove intention to murder.

## Legal Issues Raised

1. Whether the conviction under Section 302 IPC was sustainable based on the contradictory witness testimonies.

2. Whether the appellant could be falsely implicated due to prior enmity with the deceased.

3. Whether the benefit of doubt should be granted based on deficiencies in investigation and delay in statements.

## Judgment / Decision

The Supreme Court analyzed the testimonies of multiple prosecution witnesses and found material inconsistencies and contradictions. The Court noted that key witnesses failed to report the crime to nearby authorities and delayed statements raised suspicion. Inconsistencies in how the deceased was taken to the hospital and lack of bloodstains on the rescuers further weakened the prosecution's case. The Court held that the possibility of false implication due to previous enmity could not be ruled out and acquitted the appellant by granting benefit of doubt.

## Final Order

• Supreme Court allowed the appeal.

• Judgments of both the Trial Court and High Court were set aside.

• Appellant acquitted of all charges.

• Bail bonds discharged.

## Case Timeline

• 22 Aug 1994: Incident occurred

• 21 Nov 1995: Sessions Court convicted appellant under Section 302 IPC

• 26 Sep 2024: High Court upheld conviction

• 27 Mar 2025: Supreme Court acquitted appellant

## Relevant Legal Principles & Precedents

• Indian Penal Code – Section 302 (Murder), Section 300 Exception 4

• Importance of consistent, timely, and credible witness testimony

• Benefit of doubt in criminal trials

## Key Takeaways

- Contradictory or delayed evidence weakens the prosecution’s case.

- Enmity may provide motive but can also suggest false implication.

- The benefit of doubt must be extended in cases of serious evidentiary gaps.