



R -v- Ricardo Godinho

Sentencing Remarks of Mrs Justice Thornton DBE

1. **Ricardo Godinho** I must sentence you for the murder of your wife Aliny Godinho by stabbing, on the school run, on 8th February this year.
2. Aliny was on her way to collect your children from their primary school. Your youngest child, your three year old daughter, was with her. You tracked the movements of the bus she was on as it approached the stop for the school. You parked your pick-up truck in a nearby car park and armed yourself with a knife.
3. As Aliny and your daughter got off the bus just before 3pm you drove out of the car park and mounted the grass verge next to where they were walking. Aliny saw you and screamed. She tried to run away but she could not run fast because she was holding your daughter's hand. You took hold of her and stabbed her again and again. As she started to slump to the floor you carried on stabbing her. As she lay on the ground dying, you sped off in your

truck. You left your daughter watching her mother die. The attack was over in 17 seconds.

4. The medical evidence shows that Aliny died as a result of blood loss from two stab wounds to the neck which severed an artery and her trachea. There were no defensive wounds to Aliny's hands or forearms. I am satisfied that this was because your attack on her was so ferocious she had no time to try and defend herself.
5. After her death, Aliny's sister, Tatiane, found a voicemail message from Aliny, left a couple of hours before she died, in which Aliny predicted her death at your hands.
6. Aliny Godinho was kind, generous, optimistic and loved. The victim impact statement from a friend of hers describes how she raised money for his very sick wife to have life saving surgery in Brazil.
7. Aliny was a sister, daughter, granddaughter and friend. She was also the mother of four young children who must now grow up without their mother and their father. The victim impact statement from Aliny's sister Tatiane describes the impact of Aliny's death on your children and on Aliny's family who have had to move from Brazil to the UK to care for your children. This includes their fear that you may seek revenge on them or the children after your release. Your actions have caused devastating waves of pain and anguish to crash through your entire family. As Tatiane said in her statement, no sentence that I can impose will ever replace or bring back Aliny.
8. There is only sentence for murder: it is life imprisonment.
9. I must set out the minimum term you must serve before you are eligible to apply to the Parole Board for release. It will then be up to the Parole Board to decide whether and when to release you.

10. The Jury has rejected your defence that you lost control of yourself when you attacked Aliny. They have also convicted you on the basis that you were in possession of a knife which you took to the scene of the offence. This means that the starting point is a minimum term of 25 years.
11. I must take account of aggravating or mitigating factors and adjust the minimum term accordingly. I must set out my conclusions upon the evidence that I, along with the jury, heard during this trial. I must sentence you only upon the basis of facts that I am sure about. If I am not certain about something I must give you the benefit of the doubt.
12. I find that the following are aggravating features of the offence.
13. You attacked Aliny whilst she was holding the hand of your daughter. No child should ever have to see what your three year old daughter saw that day.
14. The attack took place in front of other mothers on the school run, who remain deeply distressed by what they saw. Whilst your callous attack showed the worst of humanity, they and other eyewitnesses showed the best of humanity. Despite their shock and horror at seeing your savage attack, they did everything they could to save Aliny's life and to shield your daughter from seeing her mother in the aftermath of the attack.
15. I am satisfied that you planned the attack by taking the knife, tracking the bus and lying in wait in a nearby car park. I am not however satisfied that there was significant planning or premeditation in the weeks before the attack, as the Prosecution suggest and accordingly I do not treat this as an aggravating feature.

16. There is evidence of coercive and controlling behaviour in your relationship after your separation. You admit you shredded the children's Italian passports. You ordered your friend to film Aliny picking up items of clothing from your house after the separation. You read her emails and tracked her on her phone. A police officer gave evidence about Aliny's fear of you. However, I accept that the evidence before the Court focused in the main on the period of your separation, rather than the history of the relationship. Accordingly, I do not sentence you on the basis of a history of a controlling relationship, as the Prosecution have suggested.

17. I am not satisfied, so that I am sure, that you intended to cause Aliny serious harm rather than to kill her. An article about a Brazilian woman killed by her husband was found on your iPhone. An eye witness reported that you carried on stabbing Aliny as she started to crumple to the floor. Accordingly, I do not treat your intention as a mitigating factor.

18. I take into account that following the killing you did not conceal your conduct and you were on your way to surrender to the police when you were arrested. You admitted to the killing. You knew what was in store for you. Though it remains the case that you have put Aliny's family and your children through the turmoil and pain of this trial, including the press reporting.

19. Taking all these circumstances into account I conclude that these various considerations increase the starting point by 2 years.

20. For possession of the bladed article I impose a sentence of 1 year, to be served concurrently.

21. I order forfeiture of the knife.

22. The victim surcharge must be paid.

Ricardo Godinho - please stand up

23. The sentence of this court is one of life imprisonment. You will serve a minimum term of 27 years before you can apply for parole. The 156 days that you have spent on remand in prison will count against that sentence. You may now be taken away.