



JUDICIARY OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES

**At the Central Criminal Court**

**Regina v Mason Sani Semedo & Cameron Robinson**

**Sentencing Remarks**

1. Mason Sani-Semedo and Cameron Robinson you were convicted on 25 May 2021 of murder and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. I sentence you on the basis that both of you played an equal part in the crimes. I draw no distinction in your culpability.
2. On Wednesday 13 May 2020, during the first Covid19 lockdown in Tottenham, North London a young man called Jamel Ebrahim was stabbed to death near the Edgcot Grove Estate. He was a friend of yours. I am sure that you planned to revenge the violent act that killed him. Retribution was to be carried out at about 8pm on Monday 18 May by shooting someone who you believed was connected to those who had been responsible for stabbing Ebrahim. The senseless cycle of death and destruction on the streets of London turned again.
3. You acquired a stolen moped which would not be traced to you, on which to ride to the peaceful cul-de-sac which you had targeted. You changed your clothing, dressed all in black with helmets covering your faces. You set off and en route a working firearm loaded with 9mm ammunition, was handed to you, in full view of passers-by, by an unidentified accomplice riding a scooter. After the shooting you moved swiftly to destroy evidence: burning the moped using petrol delivered to you as you fled to a quiet wooded area by the River Lea. The jury heard how the footage from dozens of CCTV cameras was scrupulously examined during the police investigation. How a careful scientific search of the scene of the burning delivered some potential clues, including remnants of burnt footwear, and how piecing telephone traffic together with what could be observed from the CCTV recordings inexorably led the police to the two of you.
4. The death of any young person with a life ahead of them, in which to make the most of all the opportunities available in this country, at this time, is truly terrible. But you quickly discovered that at your hands had died an entirely innocent person. That was Chad Gordon a shy, quiet 27-year-old man described as a

gentle giant. He was non-confrontational and had no problems with anyone. An ordinary, dignified, decent man who spent much of his time on his own; who has been spoken of well by all those who knew him. A vulnerable autistic man who lived with his grandmother, in the place he had been since he was 1 year old: this was the man who you shot to kill as he opened his front door to your knock. With no hesitation you fired into his face causing catastrophic brain injury, leaving a deformed bullet in the brain cavity and taking his life, almost instantly. Next door was a family whose members were known to the police and who had some, indirect, connection to the stabbing near the Edgcote Estate. But you didn't even take the time to check you had the right address.

5. As you rapidly left the cul-de-sac you came across Mr Gordon's aunt Kayran Henry, who had been out with her six year old son and heard the shot. She confronted you. You pointed the gun at her and threatened to shoot her. She flung herself to the ground; terrified for herself and her child. When you left she discovered what you had done and desperately sought to save her nephew. She and the rest of the family have had to leave the home they had built for decades together with loved neighbours and friends. Her son remains traumatised by his experience.
6. Chad Gordon's parents have written movingly about their loss. His mother Ann Marie Wilson said, *"My world shattered, my heart broke into tiny pieces and cannot be mended."* His father Narson Alexander Gordon says, *"Not just because Chad was my only son, he was a unique individual with absolutely no malice whatsoever. Anyone who knew or met Chad would instantly recognise a 'gentle giant' with humility to match. The hurt and anguish caused by his evil murder is immeasurable. The void left is deeply felt by his aunts, sisters, nephews, nieces, cousins and especially by his 95 year old grandmother who is still inconsolable."*
7. I adjourned sentence after the jury convicted you to give you time to reflect. In the face of the suffering I have summarised it was within your power to express remorse. But, just as at the trial, you have kept your own counsel and so there is nothing I can take into account about your attitude to the dreadful mistake you made, no words of regret, no apology, and apart from recognising the terrible nature of the crime itself, no sense of even tentative first steps towards contrition.
8. And who are you? Mason Sani-Semedo you are 19 years of age. Cameron Robinson you are now aged 20. You were both a year younger when you murdered Mr Gordon. But by May 2020 both of you had acquired several convictions for offences of robbery and possession of offensive weapons. The aim of the youth justice system is the prevention of offending by young people

and courts must always consider the welfare of young offenders. You have each been given help in an attempt to reform your adolescent characters by the imposition of several Youth Rehabilitation Orders in 2017 but all the work done to help you had failed to prevent you from determining, in May 2020, that you had the right to kill another human being in cold blood. What you did means you have lost the right to live your lives at liberty for many, many years.

9. The mandatory sentence for murder for young men of your age is custody for life. The court must also set a minimum term you have to serve. Because the murder involved the use of a firearm the minimum term is normally to be assessed from a starting point of 30 years. I see no reason to depart from that starting point. In moving from the starting point to the final minimum term I have a wide discretion. Your youth 18 and 19 respectively at the time, is a significant mitigating feature and allows for a more lenient approach than if you had been older. However, I must have regard to the aggravating features: the planning over days, the taking of the law into your own hands by way of revenge for your friend's death, acting together, the use of others who the jury could not be sure were knowingly involved, the steps you took to dispose of evidence and return the gun, a prohibited weapon and, to a lesser extent, your history of previous offending. I will pass a concurrent sentence for the threatening of Mrs Henry with a frightening firearm in a public place where she was with her child, so I take that into account in setting the minimum term too.
10. Although the passage of an eighteenth birthday represents a significant moment in the life of each individual, it does not necessarily say very much about the individual's true level of maturity, insight and understanding. There is a very great difference between the usual starting point for the minimum term for a young person under the age of 18 and those who are just over 18. I am conscious of the need for judges to bear clearly in mind the degree to which the young brain continues to develop at the age you have reached and that you have undoubtedly not yet reached full maturity. That is why I have paid particular attention to what I have been told about your backgrounds, scant though that information has been, as well as the nature of this shooting; what led up to it, how it was organised and implemented. I conclude, axiomatically, you intended to kill. You are intelligent: street-smart. You are not new to criminality despite your youth. Although there is no evidence of serious violence in your previous convictions, you were the chief protagonists in this shooting who planned meticulously to kill and then frustrate any investigation to get away with it. You knew what the consequences would be if you were caught. This was not impulsive, immature bravado. It was a considered, high stakes attempt at a swift, polished execution.

11. The starting point set by Schedule 21 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 reflects the particularly high gravity of murders using firearms and care must be taken not to double count for features commonly associated with such crimes. The true seriousness of the offence of the murder of Chad Gordon, which the minimum term is intended to reflect, represents a combination and a balancing of all the relevant factors in the case, including aggravating and mitigating factors, especially your age. Having done that, I reach the least minimum term I can, consistent with justice. That is a minimum term of 29 years.
12. The concurrent term will be one of 6 years detention applying the relevant guideline for the firearms offence and placing the offence, committed shortly after you had fired the gun into a man's head, in category 1 as I can be sure you would have not hesitated to use the gun had Mrs Henry tried to prevent your escape and you wanted her to know that. I also reflect the profound impact on her child of what you did both in killing his uncle and demonstrating an intention to cause violence to him and his mother using a gun. The boy is filled with anxiety, easily startled and distressed when he sees anyone wearing a helmet and on a moped. He needs constant reassurance and refuses to sleep by himself out of fear that you may return.
13. The minimum term of 29 years must be reduced by the 367 days and 362 days you have each spent already in custody. In your case Mason Sani Semedo the minimum left to serve is 27 years, 363 days. For you Cameron Robinson it is 28 years and 3 days. If this calculation needs to be corrected that will be achieved administratively.
14. Make no mistake: coming to the end of the minimum term, when you will each be aged nearly 50, and becoming eligible for parole does not mean you will be released on parole. You will have to wait for that day until the Parole Board considers you fit to be released and no longer dangerous. It could well be many years beyond the minimum term I have set. Moreover if, and when, you are released you will remain subject to licence for the rest of your lives and may therefore be recalled to continue your life sentence. It is in these ways that a life sentence in respect of each of you protects the public for the future. The surcharge is imposed as required.
15. The investigation in this case deserves acknowledgement. On behalf of the court, I commend the work of the police team, particularly DC Tom Hanford who led on the CCTV work and those officers who looked after Mr Gordon's family before and during the trial.

Mrs Justice Cheema-Grubb  
8 June 2021