



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

IN THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Mrs Justice McGowan

REGINA

-V-

EDWARD LITTLE

SENTENCING REMARKS

Edward Little is to be sentenced for two offences.

- 1) Preparation to Commit Acts of Terrorism contrary to section 5(1)(a) Terrorism Act 2006 before 23 September 2022.
 - 2) Causing grievous bodily harm with intent contrary to section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 on 3rd April 2023.
1. The offence of preparing to commit an act of terrorism was your plan to murder Hatun Tush, a Christian preacher. The murder was to take place at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park. She was to be killed along with anyone who was with her and any police officers or soldiers in the area.

2. That part of the park is famous for its tradition of freedom of speech and you believed that an attack there would send a strong message. Speakers' Corner is a highly popular location and a tourist attraction and any attack there would risk the lives of many people of all faiths and from all over the world. It would undoubtedly strike terror.
3. There were a number of acts carried out as part of that preparation which had lasted for about two months.
 - a. Funding was secured for the plan,
 - b. Research was carried out into the purchase of a firearm and ammunition, at one point telling one of your contacts that you wanted to buy a Mac 10 so you could "spray" your target and then use a pistol on any police officers,
 - c. You established contact with serious criminals to get the gun,
 - d. You researched the location of the planned attack,
 - e. You set up accounts in false names on a number of different social media platforms,
 - f. You downloaded extremist material and
 - g. You were in communication with others of extremist views, discussing who should be targeted, you praised the attack on the Charlie Hebdo offices in Paris, you considered finding a bookshop which sold books written by Salman Rushdie, you wanted to emulate what the murderers of Lee Rigby had done and you regretted that your preparations were too late to carry out an attack at the state funeral.
4. Having arranged the purchase of the gun, you set out from Brighton to London to collect it. You were arrested before you could take possession of the gun. When searched you had the money to pay for the gun.
5. Applying the relevant sentencing council guideline, I think that this terrorism offence falls into the A1 category, you were planning to carry out the murder alone, the preparations were well advanced and but for apprehension was very likely to have been carried out.

6. It was very likely to have been carried out and there was a risk of many deaths as a direct result. It was only your arrest that prevented your planned attack. The attack was viable.
7. Aggravating factors are:
 - a. your previous convictions,
 - b. the fact that what you did was motivated by religious hostility,
 - c. your recent and repeated possession of extremist material,
 - d. your communication with other extremists and the mutual encouragement in those exchanges and
 - e. your use of encrypted means of communication to disguise your identity.
8. There is a need for care to ensure that those factors are not double counted.
9. Factors mitigating your sentence are:
 - a. your age and immaturity and
 - b. your plea of guilty.
10. When you were being interviewed the officers played a video clip of your intended target. You lost control and launched yourself over the table and assaulted one of the officers. You pleaded guilty to that assault and have already been sentenced.
11. You were remanded into custody in prison. On April 3 2023 you went to your cell, collected two razor blades and a kettle. The kettle contained boiling water which you had mixed with sugar. That was designed to cause the maximum amount of injury to your victim. You threw the water over your victim and attacked him with the razor blades. You were immediately restrained. When asked why you had done it, you said it was because he had disrespected your religion. I have seen photographs taken at the time which show his extensive injuries. There is a later statement which shows that they have healed well.
12. You have a number of serious previous convictions.

- a. On 1 February 2017 you carried out a robbery using a knife. You punched your victim to the face, threatened him with the knife and when he fell to the ground you kicked him to the head.
 - b. On 9 March 2017 you were convicted of supplying heroin and crack cocaine.
 - c. On 6 April 2017 again you carried out a robbery using a knife. The victim was punched and kicked and threatened with a broken bottle.
 - d. On 13 September 2017 you were convicted of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and possessing a knife. On this occasion you used the knife to stab your victim repeatedly.
 - e. On 22 May 2018 you were convicted of assaulting a police officer and committing criminal damage.
 - f. On 3 January 2019, you were convicted of an assault causing actual bodily harm.
 - g. On 22 May 2019, you were convicted of an offence of being in possession of a knife in prison.
 - h. On 30 September 2023 for the assault on the officer who was interviewing you in this case you were sentenced at this court to 8 months imprisonment.
13. I have to consider whether you satisfy the requirements of the statutory test for dangerousness, in my view you are clearly someone who presents a high risk of serious harm to the public, or to certain sections of the public. The author of the pre-sentence report reaches the same conclusion.
14. Taking into account the facts of the principal offence, the assault on the police officer and the assault on a fellow prisoner in combination with your history of offending, a discretionary life sentence is the appropriate disposal. I have considered whether an extended terrorism sentence would provide sufficient public protection. It is my clear view that it would not.
15. The appropriate starting point for the assessment of the minimum term is 35 years. I take account of your age at 22, you are relatively young and immature

and I reduce the term accordingly to 30 years. You did plead guilty to this offence and should receive credit for that. I think that it is appropriate to apply that at 20% which leads to a figure of 24 years.

16. That figure must be altered to reflect the fact of the imposition of the life term in accordance with the authorities. The minimum term to be served before you can be considered for release is 16 years.
17. So that the public understands, if the risk you present does not reduce then you may never be released. If, as you mature you present less of a risk, the reduction I have applied might just mean that you are capable of being rehabilitated and no longer presenting such a threat to public safety.
18. I deal with the sentence for the assault. I agree that it is properly categorised as A3, that has a starting point of 5 years. The culpability was high, given the use boiling of water with sugar, in addition to the use of razor blades. Mercifully, although you intended serious harm, your victim has made a good recovery. I increase that to 7 given the motivation for the attack and the fact it was carried out in prison. I reduce that because of your age to 6 years which is further reduced by your early guilty plea to a term of 4 years, which will be served concurrently. That is a lower sentence than would have been appropriate if that was the only matter for which you have to be sentenced.
19. Any necessary surcharges will be imposed. Time served will count towards the term imposed.