



Judiciary of
England and Wales

Rex

v.

Ahmed Chakile GONLADIEU

Sentencing Remarks

HHJ Dhir KC

23 July 2024

INTRODUCTION

1. Ahmed Chakile Gonladieu, on the 19 July 2024 the jury have found you guilty of the murder of Alexandros Josephs and of possessing knife in a public place.
2. The fatal stabbing took place in the afternoon of Wednesday 10th May 2023 when you approached the grey BMW in which Alexandros Josephs was seated on a residential road, near Ladywell Fields in the Ladywell area of South East London. Within in a short period of time you took out your knife and stabbed him through the open driver's window

3. Such was the size of the knife which you were carrying when you approached the BMW, that it was able to and did penetrate Mr Joseph's chest to a depth of at least 17.5 cm. It went through one of his ribs, into his diaphragm and caused injury to his liver and aorta, one of the body's most important blood vessels. This injury resulted in rapid blood loss and in Mr Josephs death. The pathologist's evidence was that at least moderate force would have been required to inflict such injuries. You disposed of the knife shortly after using it to stab Mr Josephs.
4. Given the severity of the injury you inflicted, despite the best efforts of the emergency services, who arrived at the scene withing minutes, Mr Josephs' life could not be saved. He was pronounced dead at 14:38 that afternoon. He was 29 years old when you killed him
5. It is clear from the victim impact statements that the loss of Mr Josephs has had a profound impact on his family. His mother who has been diagnosed with PTSD and trauma as a result of this killing, made a moving statement which was read out in court. She said:

'Alex... leaves behind a loving mother, father, nana, Uncle Auntie cousins who cared deeply for him... and close relatives and many good friends. My whole family have been deeply affected by his brutal death.

Alex was my only Son, Al I would call him; is the love of my life, he was and is my heartbeat. I never knew you could love like this.

I have not only lost my son but this person has taken away me ever ,having any grandchildren as my son loved children.'

SENTENCE

6. For the murder of Mr Josephs, the sentence is life imprisonment. I have to decide the minimum term which you will serve before you are eligible to be considered for release by the Parole Board.
7. It is important that you, and everyone concerned with this case, should understand what a minimum term means. A minimum term is not a fixed term after which you will automatically be released. It is the minimum time which you will spend in custody before your case can be considered by the Parole Board. It will then be for the Parole Board to say whether or not you will be released. If they do not, you will remain in custody.
8. If and when you are released, you will still be subject to licence. This will remain the case for the rest of your life. If for any reason your licence were to be revoked, you would be recalled to prison to continue to serve your life sentence in custody.
9. I also have to impose a sentence of imprisonment for the offence of possessing a knife in a public place. However, I have to impose a total sentence which reflects the totality of your offending behaviour. I will do that by taking account of your possession of the knife when setting the minimum term of your life sentence and then imposing a concurrent sentence for the possession offence.
10. I am also required to impose the statutory surcharge, if it applies. The order can be drawn up in the appropriate amount.
11. Given that you took the knife to the scene, the law says that the starting point for your offence of murder is a minimum term of 25 years. I have

to consider whether I should adjust that figure up or down, so I have to consider all of the aggravating and mitigating factors.

12. You are now 25 years old and by the time you killed Mr Josephs you had been convicted of 32 offences committed between 2013 and 2020. These included a number of offences involving the use of violence or the possession of weapons. One of these convictions was linked to the supply of class A drugs.
13. The most serious of these was an offence of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to cause grievous bodily harm committed in prison on 12 October 2020, when you struck another inmate several times to the face, head and arm with a sharpened metal rod, which pierced his hand and went through his cheek, knocking out one of his teeth. I accept that you did not bring the weapon to the scene and that the incident began when your victim tried to ambush you, but you pleaded guilty to what was a very serious offence.
14. You have also been convicted of offences of assault occasioning actual bodily harm, committed in prison in 2015, 2018 (two offences) and 2019. On the latter occasion you broke your victim's nose and knocked out one of his teeth.
15. Your violence has also attracted a number of prison adjudications.
16. As for weapons offences, you have five convictions for carrying a knife, four of which were committed in 2013 and the fifth in 2018, and you have one conviction for possessing a bladed article, also committed in 2018.
17. Your prison adjudications include three occasions in 2020 on which you were in possession of or used an improvised weapon.

18. I bear in mind your age at the time of each of these convictions and adjudications.
19. It is also an aggravating factor that you were subject to post-release supervision when you killed Mr Josephs. Mr Hossain KC points out that you were engaging well with the probation service, but that did not prevent you from killing Mr Josephs.
20. As for mitigating factors, your offence was not premeditated, and I cannot be sure that you intended to kill Mr Josephs. It has been suggested that there was also an element of provocation, in that Mr Josephs' car hit and damaged your bicycle, but that cannot excuse or justify what you did next.
21. You were 24 when you committed these offences and I take account of that. It is submitted that you were immature for your age and I have also taken account of everything else Mr Hossain has said about you.
22. Having said that, your offending pattern suggests and your actions on the day of this killing suggest that you are a young man who has a short temper and that when you lose your temper you act violently.
23. For the offence of possessing a knife in a public place, the relevant sentencing guideline says that the starting point is 1 year and 6 months' imprisonment. Your offending history is again relevant as an aggravating factor, and I have again taken account of your age and the other mitigating factors advanced by Mr Hossain.
24. Ahmed Chakile Gonladieu (please stand) for the murder of Alexandros Josephs, I impose on you a sentence of life imprisonment. I fix the minimum term which you will serve in custody at 27 years. I am told that none of the days you have spent on remand count and so the minimum term will be 27 years.

25. For the offence of possessing a knife in a public place, I impose a concurrent sentence of 1 year and 9 months' imprisonment