

REX

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NASEN SAADI

SENTENCING REMARKS

1. At just before 23.40 on 24 May 2024 Aimee Grey and Leanne Miles were sitting on Bournemouth beach beside a fire they had lit. They were not impinging on anyone else but enjoying the opportunity quietly to catch up as friends do.
2. They were not known to you. You were a stranger to Bournemouth and a stranger to them. There was no interaction between you at all until you left the Promenade upon which you had been prowling, went up to them and without a word attacked them. You stabbed Ms Miles first of all. When Ms Grey told you to get off her you turned upon her. As she ran from you, you caught up with her and repeatedly stabbed her 10 times to her chest, shoulder and left arm. All Ms Miles could hear was Ms Grey screaming at you to get off her. Ms Grey's wounds were catastrophic and she sadly died at the scene. The ferocity of the attack and the number of wounds caused leave me in no doubt that your intention in approaching and assaulting her was to kill.
3. Ms Miles had run towards the Promenade hoping to get help. After you had fatally wounded Ms Grey you chased her, again catching up with her and repeatedly stabbing her 20 times. You caused her lung to collapse but she was able to keep her back to you. This meant that the wounds you caused were to that area of her body and not as serious as the ones inflicted on Ms Grey. That was sheer chance. As the jury rightly found you intended to kill her as you had killed Aimee Grey.
4. So it is that I am to sentence you today for the murder of Aimee Grey and the attempted murder of Leanne Miles. I am also to sentence you for failing to comply with a notice requiring disclosure when you refused to give the police access to your mobile phone, no doubt because there was material on it you did not wish them to see. I give you credit of 10% for your guilty plea to that latter offence tendered on the day of trial.
5. Whilst your choice of victims was left to the last moment, I am satisfied that you had long planned and prepared to kill. During the trial I heard of questions you

were asking in 2023 of lecturers and speakers on your criminology course at the University of Greenwich - questions about forensics, including DNA and how they were captured and shared; questions about the steps the police would take when investigating a murder; questions about how the police would identify and catch a murderer and questions about whether police forces in different areas communicated with each other, exchanging cases and evidence, and how far someone had to go to get away with certain offences. None of these questions were directly relevant to what they had been speaking about.

6. Your internet searches showed a continued interest in these themes. You searched for knives and weapons and about stabbing. You purchased a number of knives which were later found at your home.
7. Your preparations included finding the right location to murder someone and to avoid detection. You lived in the Croydon area. By March 2024 you were searching the Internet for “why is it harder for a killer to be caught if he does it in another town?” You had also clearly decided that a beach was the place to locate your victim, searching a number of times in April for beaches in the south of England. You were interested to know when beaches got busy in the UK. By 24 April your interest had switched to Bournemouth Beach with your searches directed towards how many people went to it and whether people went to beaches at night. You were clearly thinking of how to approach and run from your victim and how they may be able to escape from you when you were searching about whether it was easier to run on pebbles as opposed to sandy beaches.
8. Going to another town would involve staying somewhere. You were searching over this time period for whether you could pay for Airbnb with cash and whether credit card purchases could be tracked. Having settled on Bournemouth as the town in which to murder someone, you searched at the beginning of May for hotels near the beach and which ones did not have CCTV.
9. On 16 May 2024 you made a booking for 23 and 24 May via Airbnb at the Silver Howe near Bournemouth Beach. The following day you booked at the Travel Lodge for 21 and 22nd May.
10. On 19 May you were searching for Bournemouth CCTV and Bournemouth Pier CCTV as well as for a map of the West Cliff area. On 21 May you set off by train to that town. You had never been there before. By this time you had purchased black clothing, including a hooded top which you were seen to wear once in Bournemouth, no matter how hot it was.
11. Over the next 3 days you were seen on CCTV to walk up and down the Promenade in Bournemouth, especially at night. I am satisfied that this was to locate the CCTV cameras and identify the best location for your planned killing.

At 22.43 on 24 May you left the Silver Howe guest house to achieve what you had been planning to do. CCTV shows you walking up and down the Promenade, prowling I find for the right victim and time for your murders.

12. Why Aimee Grey and Leanne Miles? Prior to your conviction you gave no account or explanation for your actions. You made no comment in interview with the police and did not give evidence at your trial where you were convicted on overwhelming evidence. You admitted your guilt for the first time to Dr Ruthenberg, a psychiatrist who has prepared a report at the court's request for your sentence. You clearly should have pleaded guilty to these offences, avoiding the need for Ms Miles and the families of your victims to go through the stress of a trial. Your refusal to do so shows not only a complete lack of remorse but in my view also that you sought the notoriety you hoped a trial would give you.
13. Even now you have not told the truth. I reject the account that you gave to Dr Ruthenberg of going to Bournemouth for a holiday, walking late on the Promenade because you did not like crowds and committing the murder on impulse. As I have said the clear evidence is that you planned to kill and went to Bournemouth to do so.
14. I am satisfied that you chose Aimee Grey and Leanne Miles because you have a grievance against society as a whole and women in particular. As women they were also more vulnerable and less able to fight back; you would have the element of surprise in your favour; they were a little distance from anyone else; it was late at night with few people left in that area; it was not far from your planned escape route. All of these things, together with your desire to kill, identified them as the potential victims of this utterly senseless killing.
15. Your assault on each of them must have been terrifying as each realised what you were doing to her. No one could have heard their screams chillingly captured on the audio of CCTV footage and thought otherwise.
16. Having attacked them, you ran from the scene and, early the following morning left Bournemouth to resume your life in Croydon. You disposed of the knife you had used and the clothes you had been wearing which have never been found. No doubt you thought you had committed the perfect crime.
17. Why did you do as you did? Dr Ruthenberg's report sheds some light on that. You have experienced difficulty socialising and communicating with others by reason of the fact you have some Autistic traits although you do not have ASD. It seems that you have felt humiliated and embarrassed by repeated rejections or perceived rejections of any advances you have made, particularly towards girls which over time has resulted in a deeply suppressed rage directed towards society and women in particular. You developed an obsessional fascination with

violence, horror, crime and the mind of those who kill; and a deep seated urge for revenge against society. In Dr Ruthenberg's view you identified yourself with the mind of a killer because you wished to feel the power of which you felt society had robbed you by rejecting and humiliating you. The idea of being a recognised as a dangerous killer became appealing to you.

18. It was with that mindset that you killed Aimee Grey and attempted to kill Leanne Miles. Your autistic traits afford you no mitigation. You knew what you were doing and you knew it was wrong. You knew the consequences of your actions. I have no doubt that you are an extremely dangerous young man and are likely to remain so.

19. That crime left a family devastated by Aimee's loss, a family understandably struggling to understand what has happened and to cope. At the time of her death she was 34 years of age and much loved by her close family and by her friends. She was clearly an exceptional young woman who was full of life and always there when anyone needed her. Her cousin Meghan speaks of Aimee being her safe place, making her feel loved and welcome whenever they were together. She was brave, strong and independent, always striving to be better. She was a carer for her 90 year old grandmother who has alzheimers. Her mother speaks of the great future she had ahead of her. She was happy having recently been made a head coach of Dorset Futsal which she loved and for which she had received an award which made her justifiably proud. She had just started to plan a new work venture. She had much to live for, not least her young daughter who must now face a life without her mother's love and support. This was the person whose life you took in your act of random brutality. You must face the consequences of your actions in the punishment I impose upon you today but I recognise that nothing this court does can bring Aimee back and her family must forever live with her loss. That said her warmth and personality continues to shine. As you serve your sentence over the many years you are in custody and are quickly forgotten she will live on in the hearts of those she inspired and who loved her.

20. I turn to your sentence.

21. For the grave offence of murder there is only one sentence prescribed by law and that is imprisonment for life. That is the sentence I shall impose upon you in due course. However I am required to determine the minimum period you should serve in prison before you are eligible to be considered for release on parole.

22. It is most important that you and everyone concerned with this case should understand what in fact this means. The minimum term is not a fixed term after which you will automatically be released but the minimum term that you will spend in custody before your case can be considered by the Parole Board and it

will be for the Parole Board to say at that time whether or not you will be released. If they say you should not you will remain in custody. If and when you are released you will be subject to licence and this will be 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 serve your life sentence in custody.

23. In coming to the appropriate minimum term for the offence of murder I must first decide where this case falls within Schedule 21 to the Sentencing Act 2020. There are no factors which would place this offence within paragraph 2 of the Schedule. I have considered whether the combination of the two offences for which I am to sentence you places the case in paragraph 3. Although there are some features which would justify such an approach I have decided that the offence falls more appropriately into paragraph 4. I propose to reflect the offence of attempted murder by a significant uplift in the minimum term I impose for the murder offence.

24. You took at least one knife to the scene which you used to stab and kill Aimee Grey. The starting point for the minimum term is therefore one of 25 years.

25. The offence is aggravated by:

- a. A substantial degree of premeditation and planning;
- b. I am satisfied that you were motivated in part by your attitude to women;
- c. A degree of mental and physical suffering inflicted on Ms Grey.

26. I turn to the offence of attempted murder. I place the offence within category 2B of the sentencing guideline. It is a case of high culpability by reason of you taking a knife to the scene intending to use it to kill and had planned and premeditated the murder. I consider that you caused serious physical harm to Leanne Miles by inflicting 14 knife wounds upon her causing her lung to collapse. If sentencing for this offence alone the starting point under the guideline would be 25 years with a range of 20 to 30 years imprisonment.

27. Were I sentencing you for this offence alone I would sentence you as a dangerous offender as defined by the Sentencing Act. However the risk you pose will be managed by the minimum term I impose for the murder offence. For that reason I will impose a concurrent determinate sentence for the attempted murder of Ms Miles. As I have said, I will increase the minimum term to reflect this offence.

28. I take into account all that has been said on your behalf.

- a. You are still young. You are now 21 years of age and were aged 20 at the time of the offences. I will reflect your youth in the sentence I impose but there is no evidence that you are any less mature than would be expected at your age. Dr Ruthenberg has raised no concern about your maturity;
- b. You have no previous convictions although that fact can carry very little weight in offences of this seriousness.
- c. As I have already said, you have found life difficult by reason of your autistic traits. I accept Dr Ruthenberg's conclusion that this impaired your judgment and that once you had considered it appropriate to kill another you would have seen it through. I do not find however that this lowers your culpability for these serious offences. As I have already said you were capable of making a rational decision. You knew what you were doing and that it was wrong. You knew the consequences of your actions. There is nothing to suggest your disorder will make it particularly difficult for you in custody.
- d. You may since you have been in custody recognised that you need help but there is little mitigation in the fact that you have now accepted your guilt. As I have said you needlessly put Ms Grey's family and Ms Miles through the additional distress of a trial. You continue to minimise your actions.
- e. In truth there is little, if any mitigation.

29. Had I been sentencing you for the murder alone the minimum term would have been one of 34 years less the time you have spent on remand. The attempted murder of Leanne Miles requires a substantial uplift to the minimum term. The minimum term I impose on count 1, taking into account the 300 days you have spent in custody before today is 39 years and 65 days imprisonment. On count 2 the concurrent sentence is 30 years imprisonment

30. Nasen Saadi, for the murder of Aimee Grey I sentence you to life imprisonment. You will serve a minimum term of 39 years and 65 days imprisonment. Thereafter it will be for the Parole Board to decide when, if ever, you should be released. If you are ever released you will remain on licence for the rest of your life.

31. For the attempted murder of Leanne Miles the concurrent sentence is 30 years imprisonment.

32. For the offence of Failing to Comply with a notice Requiring Disclosure the sentence is one of 21 months concurrent.
33. The total sentence is therefore one of life imprisonment with a minimum term of 39 years and 65 days.
34. The statutory surcharge can be drawn up in the appropriate amount.
35. It is clear that the police investigation in this case was not straightforward. By their swift response and immense hard work this offender was identified and arrested within a short time of the offences. I wish to commend all who worked on this investigation but in particular DS Gedge, the officer in the case, DI Jones, the senior investigating officer and DC Waters the disclosure officer.
36. I wish to commend the courage of Leanne Miles and of her and Aimee's family and friends. They have all behaved with immense dignity in the face of such loss. This court passes on its condolences.