



MRS JUSTICE FARBEY

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- v -

JASON SAVAGE

Birmingham Crown Court

Friday 11 April 2025

Sentencing remarks

1. Jason Savage, on 30 January 2025, you were convicted of preparation of terrorist acts, contrary to section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006. I must sentence you for that offence which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. You are now 35 years old.
2. I must sentence you only on the basis of facts that I am sure about. I am sure of the following things.
3. You converted to Islam in around 2012. By 2022, you had developed a hatred of Abu Khadeejah Abdul-Wahid, who is a preacher associated with the Salafi Mosque in Wright Street in Small Heath and with the Salafi Bookstore and Islamic Centre adjoining the Mosque. Abu Khadeejah has spoken out against violence. The jury saw and heard a recording in which he condemns violence in unequivocal terms. In April 2022, you posted material to YouTube suggesting that Abu Khadeejah and his followers should perish.

4. On 2 March 2023, you were charged with an unconnected robbery and remanded in custody. On 4 January 2024, you were released on bail. Within a month of your release, you posted on Facebook that you wanted the means to remove Abu Khadeejah from the face of the earth, calling him “filth”. You told people on Facebook to be ruthless and show no respite towards those associated with Salafi Publications. You posted a Facebook message saying that if you really want to live under Islam, you must be prepared to go all the way. By saying these things, you were encouraging very serious violence.
5. Both before and after your release on bail, you were in communication by WhatsApp and other social media with an undercover officer known as Abdul. In communications to Abdul in February 2024, you said that doing something spectacular would be difficult for you because of the electronic tag which was on your leg as part of your bail conditions. You said that you were waiting for your opportunity to do what was available. You said that the convicted terrorist Mohamed Al-Bared had tried to do something spectacular. Your language demonstrated your enthusiastic support for the activity of Al-Bared who is serving a life sentence for building a long range drone intended to carry an explosive for ISIS.
6. On 7 February 2024, you told Abdul about a fight technique that involved what you called icepicking the life out of the neck and groin areas. In around mid-February 2024, you took a knife from the communal kitchen of the multi-occupancy house where you were living. You adapted its handle, so that it was a weapon ready for use, and kept it for yourself.
7. On 20 February 2024, you signed on at Stechford Police Station as part of your bail conditions for the robbery charge. You recorded the front office of the police station on a video on your phone.
8. On 7 March 2024, while communicating with Abdul on WhatsApp, you indicated that the Mosque in Wright Street needed (in your words) “flattening”. You said that people you disagreed with, such as Bilal Davis who is associated with the Aston Mosque, would be destroyed before you left Birmingham and should be hunted down. You said that Abu Khadeejah was the worst out there.
9. On 9 March 2024, you changed your WhatsApp status to LONE WOLF. Two days later, you phoned the Salafi Bookstore eight times. When none of the calls connected, you went

to the Wright Street area, near the Bookstore. You made three videos of the area on your phone which were reconnaissance for an attack on Abu Khadeejah. You told Abdul about the distance between your targets, meaning the distance between Wright Street and the Aston Mosque. You said that the distance meant that you could not (in your words) “get them all at once”. You suggested to Abdul that Small Heath Park might be an alternative location for an attack. I am sure that you selected Small Heath Park as a place where you believed that Abu Khadeejah and Bilal Davis might both go at once.

10. On 13 and 14 March 2024, you made numerous internet searches to do with homemade firearms such as pipe guns and nail guns. You researched how to make ammunition at home and how to make a firing pin. You viewed - and shared with two friends - YouTube videos about homemade shot guns and about how to make a simple trigger mechanism. There is no evidence that you had yet acquired any material to make a gun or that you had started to make one. Nevertheless, your research into the manufacture of components of firearms formed part of your preparations for a terrorist attack.
11. On 14 March 2024, you sent Abdul screenshots from Google searches for Royal Marines Reserve, Birmingham; 48 Signal Squadron in Birmingham; Perry Bar Custody Block; Stechford Police Station; RAF Careers Office; Military Preparation College; and West Midlands Police Headquarters. You commented to Abdul on the high level of security in these places, so that your plan was to attack just one of them with nothing set in stone. You took these screenshots and made these searches because you were considering the Police and Military as potential targets of a terrorist attack. Soon after, you took a screenshot of the location of the Israeli Embassy.
12. In the early evening of 14 March 2024, you told Abdul that you would see him in Paradise. You said that a person putting his neck on the chopping board should know what he is getting into. You described how you were opposed to surrender. You referred to the closeness of Paradise. I am sure that you made these fatalistic expressions because you believed (rightly or wrongly) that you would not survive the terrorist attack that you were planning.
13. Although you had at one stage suggested to Abdul that your attack might take place at Eid (i.e. 10 April 2024), you told him on the evening of 14 March 2024 that you were running

out of time in Birmingham and might need a place to rest and prepare. You asked Abdul whether he knew anyone who could give you refuge in London where you believed that Abdul lived. You told Abdul that anyone willing to give you refuge should be warned of the danger, which can only mean the danger that would arise from lending support to a terrorist about to commit a terrorist attack. At around six o'clock, you warned Abdul to be very careful and told him not to use Facebook or Twitter. You told Abdul to use only WhatsApp and to delete chats regularly. By asking Abdul to use only an encrypted messaging service and to delete chats, you demonstrated that you wanted to avoid detection. You were arrested around 1 ½ hours later.

14. I am sure that you were actively planning an ISIS-inspired lone wolf attack, meaning that you were not a member of ISIS but were motivated by ISIS propaganda to carry out a violent attack by yourself. From your chats with Abdul, I am sure that you were motivated and sought inspiration from ISIS figures such as Turki Al-Binali, Muhammad Al-Adnani Al-Shami, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, Ahmad Musa Jibril and Omar Bakri. Your phone contained images of the ISIS flag. Your profile picture on Facebook was an image of two children making the ISIS salute.
15. As of 14 March 2024, when you were arrested, you had not made a final decision as to where the attack was to take place. Your primary focus was on Abu Khadeejah but you were also considering other targets, such as the Police and the Military. As for the potential weapon, your barristers point out that there is no evidence that you took the adapted kitchen knife to your new address when you moved home in early March 2024. However, you still had access to your old house through your friend Ms Moorehouse who had taken over your old room for storage and whom you visited to watch TV. You still had access to a viable weapon. In any event, you downloaded an ISIS instructional video showing how to kill someone with a knife. You downloaded an ISIS propaganda video showing a man being beheaded with a knife and another man having his throat cut, as well as showing various men being shot in the head. An image of a man with a masked face holding out a knife in front of him was found on your phone. You downloaded a video in which an ISIS fighter is holding the disembodied head of a man in the air. A video that you sent to Abdul about violent jihad referred to the sword as being a "must". Images of household knives were found on your phone. I am sure that you were ready and willing to carry out a deadly attack by using a knife.

16. I must apply the sentencing guideline for preparation of terrorist acts. By reference to the factors set out in the guideline, I must identify the level of culpability which is not affected by Abdul's involvement. The Prosecution say that your offence involved culpability at level B because you acted alone in terrorist activity where preparations were advanced and, but for apprehension, the activity was likely to have been carried out. Your barristers submit that the offence involved culpability at level C because you played a leading role in terrorist activity where preparations were not far advanced.
17. I have concluded that there are characteristics present in your terrorist activity which fall both under level B and under level C culpability. As regards Abu Khadeejah, you acted alone. By the time of your apprehension, you had carried out research into the lethal use of knives. You had adapted a knife for use as a weapon, even if it was left at a previous address. You had conducted reconnaissance of a potential attack location at Wright Street near the Mosque and Bookshop. You had in mind Small Heath Park as a second potential attack location. You had selected Abu Khadeejah as a potential target, describing him as filth who should be removed from the face of the earth with no respite. You had told Abdul that you would see him in Paradise. These factors demonstrate level B culpability because the preparations for an attack on Abu Khadeejah were advanced and, but for apprehension, the attack was likely to have been carried out.
18. As regards other potential targets, I have mentioned already your filming in Stechford Police Station and your Google searches relating to the Police, the Military and the Israeli Embassy. Your preparations in relation to these potential targets were not far advanced. I agree with your barristers that what you did in relation to these potential targets involves level C culpability.
19. As I have concluded that there are characteristics present in your offending which fall under different levels of culpability, I must balance the various characteristics to reach a fair assessment of your culpability. Weighing the relevant factors in the balance, a fair assessment drives me to conclude that your culpability must be placed in level B. Otherwise, the seriousness of your offending in relation to Abu Khadeejah as a potential target would not be adequately reflected in your sentence, which would be unjust.

20. Turning to the element of harm, I must consider both the harm that you intended and also the viability of the plan, disregarding for the moment the involvement of Abdul to which I will return. The Prosecution say that your offence involved Category 2 harm because a death was risked and very likely to be caused. Your barristers submit that there was Category 3 harm because a death was risked but not very likely to be caused.
21. You would have been unlikely to overcome the security arrangements in place for the Police, Military and Israeli Embassy. The element of harm in relation to these potential targets falls into Category 3. However, you were preparing to make a lethal attack on Abu Khadeejah. As for the viability of the plan, if you had taken a knife to the area around the Salafi Bookstore or to Small Heath Park, you would readily have been able to stab him and death would have been very likely to be caused. You will therefore be sentenced on the basis of Category B harm as otherwise the seriousness of your plan against Abu Khadeejah would not be adequately reflected in your sentence, which would be unjust.
22. The starting point for a Category 2B offence is life imprisonment with a minimum term of 15 years' custody. The category range is life imprisonment with a minimum term of 10 to 20 years' custody.
23. I turn to aggravating factors. You have a long criminal record going back to 2011. I have regard to the time that has elapsed since your early convictions and do not treat them as aggravating factors. However, more recently, in 2019, you were convicted of the unauthorised possession of a knife in prison after an improvised knife was found in your cell at HMP Swaleside. In 2021, you used terrifying and offensive language on social media to glorify an attack in which staff at HMP Whitemoor had been stabbed, which led to your conviction for sending an offensive or menacing message by a communication network. These convictions are an aggravating factor warranting an upward adjustment to your sentence. That your present offence took place while you were on bail for suspected robbery is a further aggravating factor meriting a further upward adjustment. Your possession of extremist material, including barbaric and brutal ISIS videos and propaganda, is a yet further aggravating factor and warrants a substantial upward adjustment. Your stirring up of hatred for Abu Khadeejah in your social media postings also warrants a substantial upward adjustment.

24. The Prosecution say that there are further aggravating factors, namely your admiration for other extremists such as Al-Bared; the fact that you involved Abdul; and your use of encrypted technologies, principally WhatsApp. However, I have taken account of these factors in assessing your culpability under the guideline, because they cast light on how determined you were about carrying out a lethal attack. Your determination to carry out a lethal attack is part of the picture that makes it likely that you would have carried out your plan, so as to engage level B culpability. It would be wrong to count these factors again.
25. I turn to mitigating factors. Your father left your mother when you were a baby and you never saw him again. You lived with your mother, stepfather, half-brother and half-sister. Your mother had mental health difficulties and did not protect you from violence at the hands of your stepfather. At the age of 15, you left home and went to live with your older brother and his partner. You were bullied at school. You felt the need to resort to drugs. You spent considerable time in a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit. You made attempts to end your life from the age of 11 onwards. You have attempted to kill yourself by hanging, by an overdose of cocaine and by cutting yourself. You have resorted to punching walls and damaging prison cells as a vent for your frustration and agitation. You are traumatised by past experiences which you do not wish to discuss and which I do not need to describe. You struggle to maintain relationships with others, such as friends and family. Your difficult and deprived background is a mitigating factor.
26. In his two written reports, Dr Furtado, who is a forensic psychiatrist, says that you meet the criteria for a clinical diagnosis of emotionally unstable personality disorder as well as dissocial personality disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder. These disorders mean that you have, among other symptoms, a tendency to act impulsively without consideration of consequences. You display outbursts of extreme emotion which you cannot control. You have a labile mood, a low threshold for discharge of aggression and a tendency to bear persistent grudges.
27. The guideline for judges sentencing offenders with mental disorders makes plain that a person's culpability will be reduced if there is sufficient connection between the offender's disorder and the offending behaviour. Dr Furtado's opinion is that all your disorders would have been present at the time of your offence and would have substantially contributed to your behaviour. In light of your mental disorders, as described by Dr Furtado, I accept that

you may not always be able to exercise appropriate judgment in the heat of the moment. However, your offending took place over a number of days and cannot be described as impulsive. I am sure that you were at all times able to make rational choices and to understand the nature and consequences of your actions. There is little connection between your offending and your mental disorders and so your culpability is reduced by only a modest amount.

28. I make a separate downward adjustment to take account of Abdul's involvement. As you had a viable plan to carry out a terrorist attack if Abdul had not been involved, it is appropriate to make only a limited reduction within the category range.
29. I must next consider whether you are dangerous as defined by Parliament in an Act. You were preparing to carry out an ISIS-inspired violent attack. You carried out research into the manufacture of components of firearms. You carried out research into the lethal use of knives. I accept Dr Furtado's evidence, in his two reports, that you have maladaptive social traits, disregard for social norms and rules and an incapacity to experience guilt or profit from punishment. The Pre-sentence Report from a Probation Officer assesses you as posing a high risk of serious harm to the public and says that you present with a vindictive personality. The PSR describes how you struggle to see how your actions may be interpreted by others as preparing to cause harm to Abu Khadeejah. I am in no doubt that there is a significant risk to members of the public of serious harm occasioned by the commission by you of further specified offences. Taking into account all the available information, there is nothing to suggest that you will cease to present such a risk in the predictable future. The PSR assesses that you are dangerous and I agree.
30. I consider that the seriousness of the offence itself, your previous convictions and the level of danger to the public that you pose into the indefinite future are such as to justify the imposition of a sentence of imprisonment for life. A life sentence is a sentence of last resort but no other form of sentence, such as a determinate or extended sentence of imprisonment or special custodial sentence for offenders of particular concern, would be adequate. I am satisfied that your offence is so serious that a sentence of life imprisonment is required; and that is the sentence which I impose. The sentencing guideline foreshadows this outcome by recognising that offenders who commit serious terrorist offences are likely to be found dangerous and by recognising too that a sentence of life imprisonment for serious offences

like yours will be justified. As I have said, the starting point for a Category 2B offence is a life sentence.

31. I must set the minimum term that you must serve, which is the number of years that you will serve in custody before you may apply to the Parole Board who will decide whether or not it is safe for you to leave prison. The seriousness of your offence, together with the upward adjustment that must be made for the substantial aggravating factors, outweighs to a moderate extent the downward adjustments for your mitigation and for Abdul's involvement. This means that I shall make a moderate upward adjustment from the 15-year starting point.
32. Jason Savage, for the offence of preparation of terrorist acts, your sentence is life imprisonment with a minimum term of **16 years less 385 days** for the period on remand in custody for this offence. This means that your minimum term is **14 years and 345 days**. If this calculation is wrong, the court must be informed as soon as possible and a hearing to correct it will be listed.
33. After you have spent **14 years and 345 days** in prison, the Parole Board will decide if it is safe for you to be released. If it is not safe for you to be released, you will stay in custody. If it is safe for you to leave prison, you will be on licence until the end of your life. There will be licence conditions that you will have to follow. If you break those conditions you may have to go back into prison.
34. The Prosecution seek a serious crime prevention order which would impose stringent obligations on you after your release in over 14 years' time. In light of the length and nature of the sentence that I impose, I am not persuaded that such an order is necessary or proportionate. I decline to make a serious crime prevention order.
35. I order forfeiture of the following exhibits: CLM/1 which is your Xbox console with controller and power wires; DEA/30 which is the kitchen knife recovered by Police; and JPS/1 which is your mobile phone. You will pay the victim surcharge in the appropriate amount.

36. Although it is not part of your sentence, I must tell you that notification requirements under Part 4 of the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 will apply to you for the next 30 years. The requirements mean that you have to give certain information to the Police. You will be given full details of these requirements in due course.
