



Rex

v.

David WALCOTT

Ramon MALI

Sentencing Remarks

Central Criminal Court

17 April 2025

HHJ Dhir KC

1. David Walcott and Ramon Mali, the jury have found you guilty of the murder of Rijkaard Siafa. He was 22 years old when you brutally stabbed him 13 times in 24 seconds, in a sustained, planned and brutal attack with the knives, I am sure, you were both carrying. The jury have also found you, David Walcott, guilty of possession of a bladed article in a public place.
2. I am sure that you both, together with a third male, set out that day armed with knives and looking for Rijkaard Siafa. That is clear from the CCTV

footage that was played during the trial of you actions. It was about 6pm when you saw him and chased him down the alleyway, near Surrey Street market, in the Croydon area of London, where people were shopping and working. Many of them tried to save Rijkaard Siafa life, as did the emergency services who arrived at the scene quickly, but it was all in vain. Such was the nature of the attack that his life could not be saved.

Victim Impact Statements

3. You ended Rijkaard Siafa's life and you brought grief to his mother his family and his friends, who will never recover from their loss.

(1) Hassanatu Tutu BAH, Rijkaard Siafa's mother who spoke today in court with dignity and courage. She said: Rijkaard had so much to live for. His dreams were big, his zest for life unmatched.

(2) Rijkaard's cousin, Jordan Juxon-Best in his moving statement said: Rijkaard was 'light, energy, and love', and that he is 'missed every single day. ...Your memory lives on in all of us.

(3) On behalf of all the aunts and godparents, Thelma Dakin-Davis, said : The trauma and pain his family and friends have endured is beyond description

Factual Basis For Sentence

4. Having heard the evidence at the trial I am sure that:

(1) You together with one other male who has not yet been arrested, met on the morning of the murder and walked around the Croydon area looking for Rijkaard Siafa. And you found him just at the entrances of Fellmongers yard

- (2) When you saw him, each of you reached for your waistband and pulled out a knife, that is clear from the CCTV footage.
- (3) Each of you, together with the third male attacked him. He was stabbed multiple times in the yard. I note that there was one fatal wound.
- (4) After the stabbing you left the scene quickly, changed your clothes more than once and left the area.
- (5) The impact of your actions that day will, I am sure, felt by all of those who tried to help Rijkaard Siafa and who called the emergency services. Many of them gave evidence at the trial. They were brave, they were dignified and did all they could to save his life. Rijkaard Siafa's literally died in their arms. I am sure that what they saw that that day will remain with them for many years to come.

Sentence

- 5. I have to impose on each of you a sentence of life imprisonment. I also have to decide the minimum term which you will serve before you are eligible to be considered for release by the Parole Board. 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.
- 6. 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.

7. I am also required to impose the statutory surcharge, if it applies. The order can be drawn up in the appropriate amount.
8. Each of you took a knife to the scene and I see know reason to draw any distinction between you. The law says that the starting point in a case like this 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.
9. As for aggravating factors, this was a premeditated killing, committed by three males armed with knives, against one man. It was planned, it quick, it was brutal and it was committed in a public place in the presence of others.
10. Mr Walcott, you were 34 years old when you killed Rijkaard Siafa. You are 35 years old now. You have previous convictions for robbery, possession of a weapon (a knife) in a public place, wounding, common assault and convictions for drug offences.
11. Mr Mali, you were 32 years old when killed Rijkaard Siafa. You are 33 years old now. You have previous convictions for possession of a bladed article, battery, robbery, common assault and one count of possession of heroin with intent to supply.
12. As for mitigating factors, I have taken account of everything which has been said on your behalf. In particular your vulnerabilities as set out in the expert reports:

- (1) For Mr Walcott, I have been referred to the statement of Dr Gupta, which sets out the issues you have and states that you are ‘*extremely vulnerable and emotionally unstable*’ but includes this caveat ‘*Mr Walcott presented as someone who has persistent disregard for social norms*’.
- (2) For Mr Mali, I have considered the report of Dr Kilman (dated 17.1.25) and the letter from his father
13. **David Walcott**, for the murder of Rijkaard Siafa I impose on you a sentence of life imprisonment. I fix the minimum term which you will serve in custody at 27 years, less the time which you have spent in custody on remand. I am told that you have spent 362 days in custody on remand, so the minimum term will be 26 years and 3 days.
14. For the offence of possession of a bladed article in a public place, I impose a concurrent sentence of 18 months’ imprisonment.
15. **Ramon Mali**, for the murder of Rijkaard Siafa I impose on you a sentence of life imprisonment. I fix the minimum term which you will serve in custody at 27 years , less the time which you have spent in custody on remand. I am told that you have spent 346 days in custody on remand, so the minimum term will be 26 years and 19 days.

Commendations for Andre Xhika, Andrew De Rosa, Ellie Baker and Tiffany Twomey. As well as for the CCTV Officer DC Choudhury.

HHJ Dhir KC

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