

REX v. Moussa KADRI

Sentencing Remarks

Mr Kadri, I have to sentence you today for 2 matters; Possession of a bladed article in a public place and common assault.

The offences, to which you have pleaded guilty occurred on 13 February 2025 near the Turkish Consulate in Central London.

You were clearly deeply offended by a man who was protesting outside the consulate and who as part of his protest had set fire to the holy Quaran. You were heard to issue threats to him, calling him 'a fucking idiot' and telling him that you were going to kill him. You then returned inside your property.

When you came back outside, you had armed yourself with a knife and you went to confront him.

What happened next was graphically recorded on CCTV and it showed what, to any passing member of the public, must have appeared to be a a very frightening and violent attack in the street by a man armed with a knife.

You slashed towards the other man and when he went to the ground you kicked at him a number of times and spat at him. These events must have been very frightening indeed for other members of the public to observe.

Whilst I accept that the blade in question may not have been in the same league as, say, a sharpened kitchen knife (it appears to be a pointed bread knife), it was pointed and it could have caused serious injury.

Even if you never had any intention to stab him, your actions, in public, in Central London and during the day were wholly unacceptable. Knife crime of any sort is something that these courts take extremely seriously. When armed with a knife, there is always the possibility that really serious injury or death, even if unintended, could result. Losing your temper and your self-control in the way that you did that day was disgraceful and is something that I know you are rightly ashamed of. I accept that you are remorseful as reflected in the references and the Pre-Sentence Report that I have read.

I note however that you are now 59 years old and someone of hitherto exemplary character.

Those who know you speak extremely highly of you and observe that this behaviour is totally out of character. Those observations demonstrate what a tragedy it is that a man of your previous good character should find that because of your actions you are before the Crown Court for the first time in your life. I note also the good works that you do especially your work with charities.

Turning to Sentencing Guidelines.

Both of these offences occurred together and were bound up with each other. It is therefore entirely appropriate that I should take one of them, the bladed article offence, as the lead offence and reflect the circumstances of the assault in the sentence passed on that count. It follows that in my judgement concurrent sentences are appropriate in this case.

I accept the categorisation agreed by the prosecution and the defence in this case, having considered the appropriate sentencing guidelines.

For the blade the starting point for a Culpability A, Harm 2 offence is 6 months with a range of between 3 months and 1 year in custody.

The fact that you sought to mislead those investigating this case by sending a photograph of a palette knife, something you were clearly not carrying, is an aggravating factor. I understand that you do not contest this. That and the circumstances of the assault lead, in my judgement to an upward adjustment from the starting point of 6 months.

Turning to the mitigation, as I have observed, I note that you are a 59 year old man of previously exemplary character.

You are a loved husband and father. A hard worker and someone who, those who have written on your behalf cannot praise highly enough.

You are relied upon as a carer and much respected in your work with charity.

Mr Unwin, who has spoken so eloquently on your behalf this morning, urges me to impose a community order in your case but I cannot.

This case clearly crosses the custody threshold, The use blades is a curse on our community. There cannot be separate standards based simply on the type of person who choses to behave in this way. There

has to be, it seems to me, a clear message, that these courts take this type of offence extremely seriously and that prison sentences will be imposed.

That said, in your case, I see no reason for that sentence to result in immediate custody. I have already observed that your mitigation reflects a highly respected and valued individual. I accept your remorse and I accept that there is an almost non-existent chance of repetition of this behaviour.

The effect of your incarceration now on others would be wholly disproportionate.

I propose therefore to impose a suspended sentence of imprisonment for 18 months.

Had there been a trial, having taken all of the circumstances of the offences and the aggravating factor into consideration and having balanced that against the mitigation advanced, the sentence would have been one of 6 months.

Giving you credit of between 20 and 25% to reflect your plea, I will reduce that to one of 20 weeks.

For the common assault the sentence will be one of 6 weeks concurrent.

In addition there will be a requirement to complete 150 hours un-paid work in the community and up to 10 days Rehabilitation Activity requirement.

You will do what you are told to do in the next 18 months.

If you commit another offence or fail to meet the requirements given to you by your probation officer, you will be brought back to court, in the first instance the Magistrate's Court where the order I have made could be made more onerous by the imposition of further days or hours or a fine or if you are not going to comply at all, with the sentence being activated whether in part or in whole.

I impose the statutory surcharge in the appropriate amount and award the prosecution its costs of £150 to be paid by you within 28 days from now.

HHJ HIDDLESTON
Southwark Crown Court