



23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

Central Criminal Court  
Old Bailey  
London

R v Ashley Lewis and Mutaro Mane  
His Honour Judge Martyn Levett DL.  
Sitting at the Central Criminal Court

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## **Preamble**

1. As will emerge when I pass sentence, just carrying a knife in public without good reason, whether it is used or not used to threaten, can lead to a sentence of up to 4 years custody. Deterrent sentences imposed have reduced violent crime, but it is still very high and as this case demonstrates like many others, knife crime continues to risk taking precious lives away and is properly categorised as senseless violence.

2. This case also exemplifies yet another dreadful knife attack in broad daylight under the noses of innocent passengers at lunchtime on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 on a No54 London bus when it stopped in Rushey Green Catford. The passengers included women who bravely intervened. It is apparent to me that those passengers witnessing this attack were struck by the horror and outrage that such a thing would happen in broad daylight on public transport: shouts of “..open the door [to let the injured man escape] ...and “.. stop, stop, stop” can be heard on the bus cctv above the loud screaming and then one female passenger can be seen trying to pull Mr Lewis away from this continuing joint attack on Demar Brown, which was persistent and sustained.

3. The chronology of events taken from all CCTV footage shows that the Demar Brown and his brother were in the KFC restaurant at 13: 26 hours on 18/10/25 and shows them sitting in the front window, not causing any trouble. You Mutaro Mane and Ashley Lewis, passed the front window, stopped and then went towards the front door and some form of dialogue occurred between you and Demar Brown at 13.37. After you walked away, nothing else occurred until you both returned to the front door of KFC. At that point, during a further confrontation, a milkshake was thrown through the door at Mr Brown causing him to draw a knife. You both then disappeared again and walked round the corner for a second time. This time when in the pedestrian walkway at the side of the restaurant you can be seen on cctv standing close to a large industrial Biffa waste bin.

4. The cctv clearly shows at this point you Mr Mane picking up something from the ground. You told the jury you just happened to see a randomly discarded wallet but in my judgement, it was the bladed article which had been placed there strategically and deliberately for use in the subsequent attack on Mr. Brown on the No54 bus. Taking a knife onto the scene of a public transport bus in my judgement shows this attack to be premeditated and by its nature is properly described as lasting a long time amounting a series of prolonged and persistent acts of violence.

5. Mr. Demar Brown had left the KFC restaurant on his own to get away from you both. He can be seen quickly making his way across main roads and towards the bus stops in Rushey Green. There is no question of self-defence or the defence of another and the tables had not turned on you at any stage. This was a vengeful attack of retribution because you both chased after him over a distance of approximately 200 yards which indicates to me the deliberate and the premeditated way in which you both then acted. Demar

Brown got on that bus and hid behind one of the seats. As you both ran along the pavement passing the bus Mr Lewis you spotted Mr. Brown and shouted out to Mr Mane “he's on the bus, he's on the bus” and then shouting at Demar Brown “you neek, you neek, you neek...”

6. This knife attack occurred on board a London Transport bus in front of many passengers. Demar Brown was not prepared to co-operate with the police investigation as is becoming increasingly common. However, justice can be achieved due to the installation of cctv cameras on London Transport which provides an unassailable record of attacks like this one on public transport and brings to justice those involved, despite witnesses being too afraid to give evidence for fear of reprisal and victims who likewise feel fearful of the consequences of assisting the police.

### **The Attack**

7. As for the attack on Demar Brown, this is the basis on which I shall sentence.

7.1 First, you both knew Demar Brown had a knife because he pulled it out in front of you both after you threw the contents of a milkshake at him in the doorway of the KFC restaurant. After that incident, you both left, turning into the side alley.

7.2 Second, you both could easily have walked on and gone the Subway stores to get something to eat as intended.

7.3 Third, Demar Brown left the KFC to get away from any trouble and turned right in the opposite direction towards the main road to get a bus.

7.4 Fourth, when you returned again to the KFC you realise Demar Brown had quickly left so you both chased after Demar Brown. Mutaro Mane you now had a knife and Ashley Lewis you alerted Mr Mane who you knew had a knife, that Demar Brown got on the bus.

7.5 Fifth, any doubt about you knowing Mane had a knife is resolved by the cctv captures showing Mr Mane holding the knife head high in front of passengers and Ashley Lewis you were getting on board through the front doors could not fail to see Mr Mane had a bladed knife.

7.6 Sixth, the internal cctv shows Demar Brown backing away with you, Mr Mane, attacking him face to face falling over the rear of the seats.

7.7 Seventh, you Ashley Lewis joined in the attack as the cctv shows you using your feet, holding on to hand rails to give better balance and purchase. This was not to break up any incident but you joining in the violent attack.

7.8 Eighth, this was sustained and persistent attack because you Mr Lewis got off the bus but now joined in again by getting through middle doors onto the platform where there is a further attack on Delmar by Mr Mane using the knife and you Mr Lewis kicking out and eventually being pulled off by a brave member of the public.

## **The Injuries**

8. In para 4 – 12 of the agreed facts at trial, Demar Brown's injuries were listed. It was apparent he was gravely injured on 1/7/25 and notwithstanding a lack of supporting statement to know the effect this attack had on him, common sense must prevail.

9. Whilst it might not be possible to conclude the injuries fall in the highest category of harm, the nature and degree would have a substantial effect on the victim's ability to carry out their normal day to day activities or on their ability to work at least in the short term.

10. The injuries included wounds to his face, his forehead down to the upper eyelid and cutting into the bone, wounds to both lips, the skin of the face and chin into the muscles. He was left with four wounds to his upper back which were deep and involved cuts into the muscle, a 5<sup>th</sup> 2cm wound to the spleen with associated bleeding, a 6<sup>th</sup> wound measuring 2-3cm to the layer of muscle between the chest and abdominal cavities, resulting in the fatty tissue covering the organs in the abdominal cavity to become trapped.

11. He also suffered at least three stab wounds to the left side of the chest wall and a punctured left lung, which resulted in a collapse of the lung. He required a chest drain and surgery involving a midline incision to the abdomen to gain access to the abdominal cavity to treat the injury to the spleen. His wounds were closed.

12. A CT scan of his head, neck, chest, abdomen and pelvis showed: a wound to the right side of the front of the scalp and right eye socket. It confirmed a punctured left lung resulting in a collapse with a collection of blood. The wound to the spleen was described as a "high grade splenic laceration with capsular breach and extension to the hilum" and a possible injury to the large intestine

13. He required a breathing tube to assist his breathing until 2 July 2025, and remained in hospital until 9 July 2025 when he was discharged having "recovered well".

## **The Sentence Guideline**

14. There are several factors fitting this case into the highest of all culpabilities in category A because not only was there a significant degree of premeditation but you took a highly dangerous weapon to the scene of the stabbing, on public transport in front of many innocent passengers and Mr Mane you played a leading role in this joint activity. It was prolonged. It was persistent and it was activity with the taste of revenge written all over it.

15. The injury caused to Demar Brown involving multiple stab wounds with you both intending that he should suffer really serious harm and whilst there is no VPS personal statement from Mr Brown, it is clear that the serious harm

is of a physical nature and must at least include some psychological harm impacting on him.

16. When considering the harm caused the sentencing council observe that an adjustment from the starting point, upwards may be necessary to reflect particular features of culpability and harm when there are multiple relevant factors within one category, and that the presence of those many factors from more than one category falling close to a borderline between category 2 and 1.

### **Community Impact**

17. I am told that violent crime maybe reducing according to released statistics, but it is still very high in the London Borough of Lewisham, Bexley and the Royal Borough of Greenwich. As the community statement from Superintendent Durham sets out the impact of knife crime should not be understated because far too often its impact creates a culture of fear which leads other people to carry knives often with tragic consequences especially amongst young people.

18. Staggeringly, the year before this incident between April 2023 and 2024 603 victims of knife crime under the age of 25. In that same period 1168 crimes involved the use or the threat or intimidation with a knife in those boroughs. Knife crime and serious violence are issues that are deeply impacting the communities and have the greatest potential to undermine confidence not only in policing but the criminal justice system.

19. To those observations I add my own remarks. The case illustrates how knife crime has blighted our towns and surrounding areas. Every weapon carried on the street, even if it's concealed from sight, even if it's not likely or intended to be used, represents a threat to public safety and public order. Even if a knife is held for bravado or from some misguided sense that it's for protection, there is a risk of using it because it takes a moment of irritation, anger or perceived insult or something very trivial like a look, for the weapon to be produced and then offences of the greatest possible seriousness follow. The more so when knives are carried to the scene, as happened in this case I am sentencing today.

20. Stabbings have a profound impact on society, leaving communities shattered and individuals traumatized. The fear of walking the streets and the constant threat of violence permeate the daily lives of innocent citizens. Families are torn apart as they mourn the loss of loved ones, forever scarred by the senseless brutality that gangland stabbings bring.

21. The psychological consequences of stabbings cannot be underestimated. Survivors often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), experiencing flashbacks and nightmares that haunt them long after the incident. Witnessing or being a victim of such violence can lead to anxiety, depression, and a loss of trust in others.

### **Previous Conviction**

22. Mutaro Mane you were born on 16/2/96 and now 30 years old and have two previous convictions. On 8/3/21 for drug supply a 3 year sentence and on 24/2/24 for an assault on an emergency worker a further 2 weeks imprisonment.

23. Ashley Lewis you were born on 22/5/95 and now 31 years old. You have several previous convictions, notably in 2017 when 22 years old a 34 month sentence for possession with intent to supply drugs which was your second offence. However on 19/9/23 you were convicted of violent disorder and Assault occasioning actual bodily harm and received a suspended sentence of 18 months suspended for two years with unpaid work.

24. The offence of which the jury convicted you places you in breach of that suspended sentence order which you have admitted. When dealing with the breach I have noted that within the violent disorder you repeatedly punched, elbowed and hit a victim, but this was part of a joint attack, and you joined in it with others who repeatedly kicked one victim when he was on the floor. As a result, one person lost consciousness and had swelling in their face and in respect to another you pulled them into an underpass. But the present case is an escalation in your pattern of offending and demonstrates like many other joint enterprise knife crime attacks, your continuing threat to public safety.

### **Sentencing Council Guideline**

25. Mr Mane and Mr Lewis you were both engaged in a prolonged and repeated attack lasting over a period of minutes, captured on the bus CCTV involving at least 10 separate stab wounds to Demar Brown's back, front and to both his sides. Three stab wounds to the left side of the chest wall and a punctured left lung, which resulted in a collapse of the lung requiring emergency treatment.

26. The attack continued in full view of the passengers and on a London Transport bus. Demar Brown was cornered and could not escape from the onslaught of stabbing and kicking. This is why passengers were shouting "Open the doors and stop".

27. I have considered the Sentencing Guidance on bladed articles, wounding with intent, principles of totality and implementation of suspended order of custodial sentences. As I have previously indicated, the case falls in the highest culpability category A of the wounding with intent guidelines because it involved significant premeditation, Mutaro Mane you had the knife, you chased after Demar Brown and were determined to get him intending to cause him really serious harm. You used a highly dangerous and you played a leading role in this joint group activity which was both a prolonged and persistent revenge attack.

28. Ashley Lewis, you were more than a follower. You were actively involved by joining in the chase, assisting Mutaro telling him where Demar Brown had hidden. You saw Mr Mane jump on board and must have seen the knife he brandished for all to see. It was raised above his head and I conclude you knew there was a knife involved but still actively joined in justifying a conclusion that this was a category A culpability case.

29 There is undoubtedly sufficient justification for placing the injuries in the B harm category and in my judgment due to the sustained nature of the attack the serious bodily harm carried with it a high risk of death which ought to have been obvious to the you. I will add to that narrative that the number of wounds is indicative of the nature of the assault and its persistence, and I did not detect one element of self-defence nor is there anything in the jury's verdicts that supports the submission that the jury must have accepted "an element of self-defence" whatever that may mean. That is not a conclusion that can be drawn from the acquittal of attempted murder. What I do know is that neither of you stopped at the scene to assist in alerting the emergency services or aid the injured man. Mr Lewis left the bus, and further aggravated the offence by threatening a member of the public who had filmed you and Mr Mane telling them that they should delete footage on their phone.

30. The starting point for a category 1B case is 7 years imprisonment in a range up to 10 years. In this case a significant adjustment upwards from that starting point must be made to reflect the multiple features of culpability and the presence of factors from more than one category and it is close to a borderline between categories 1 and 2 in harm caused. There are also aggravating factors which I will now list.

### **Aggravating features**

31. The following aggravating features, some of which overlap, are common to each of your cases: this was an overpowering attack by two men on one lone person but these two factors of persistence and group attack are factors considered in the assessment of culpability which I considered when increasing the sentence from the starting point. However, you both have previous convictions and the location of this attack on a London Transport bus in front of several members of the public who were left in shock at what they saw are both further aggravating factors. In your case Ashley Lewis, the attack occurred during the operational period of a suspended sentence imposed on 19/9/23 for similar acts of public violence when you were convicted of violent disorder and assault. This is a relevant factor increasing sentence in your case alongside the threat to the member of the public to destroy the film footage.

### **Mitigating features**

32. In your case Mutaro Mane, there are the following features in your personal history. Mr Krickler, your counsel was right to point out that you do

not have a history or pattern of committing offences of this nature and seriousness. The pre-sentence report describes you as immature and egotistical, but this characteristic does not carry much weight in the scale of violence seen in this case, nor does the fact that you suffered serious injuries yourself during the incident, after all you could have walked away and no one would have been injured. So in my judgment the circumstances of the offence when considered alongside the aggravating and mitigating factor do not persuade me that I should reduce the assessment of a sentence of 10 year imprisonment after a trial before any reduction for your guilty plea. I have read the recently uploaded letters from Rana Chowdhury, your three brothers and Peter Copeland who at page T83, appeared to believe that you were a man of good character.

33. In your case Ashley Lewis, I have considered the four references from Nana Kyeme who knows you through your relationship with your late grandfather and so does Lucille McNaughton. I am quite sure you can demonstrate kindness, respect, and consideration towards your family. Like Kieron Newman who has known you for almost twenty years, who asked you to be a godparent, but they do not see the other side of your character. To describe the event, as you participated in, as a moment of madness does not reflect your previous convictions for violence and during the operational period of a suspended sentence.

34. These mitigating factors are very limited and few in number. The most that can be said is that you did not carry a weapon that day but nevertheless you knew Mr Mane had the knife and used it in a brutal attack during which you willingly joined in as an aggressor not a defender. Your remorse comes very late in the day and certainly was not evidence during the trial when you gave evidence.

### **Plea – credit**

35. Ashley Lewis you do not receive any reduction for a guilty plea as you contested the case throughout, but you did not wield the knife nor stab Demar Brown and for those reasons I make a distinction between you both by a reduction of 18 months from 10 years. In your case the sentence is 8½ years imprisonment on count 2.

Mutaro Mane, you did have the bladed knife and a jury was sworn to try you on 23/2/26 and it was on the next day on 24/2/26 at 11.36 am, you pleaded guilty to count 2, the allegation of section 18 wounding with intent and possession of the bladed article used to stab Mr Brown. You had maintained a not guilty plea throughout from PTPH and at the PTR 17/2/26. Your defence statement was filed on 14/10/25 asserting you acted in self-defence and you told the jury you changed your plea to guilty after the law was explained to you. I doubt that very much, but the Sentencing Council guidance at para F clearly states that in the Crown Court where the offered plea is a permissible alternative on the indictment as charged, the offender will not be treated as having made an unequivocal indication unless the offender has entered that

plea. You will therefore receive 10% reduction from the custodial sentence of 10 years imprisonment making 9 years.

### **Dangerousness Sentences explained**

36 You have both been acquitted or attempted murder in count 1 but both of you, either by the jury verdict or on your plea of guilty, have been convicted of wounding with intent in count 2 which is a schedule 19 listed offence but I do not regard this case as justifying a life sentence. Nevertheless, count 2 is a schedule 18 offence for the purpose of section 279 of the Sentencing Act and I am required to consider the issue of dangerousness, that is, whether there is a significant risk of you committing further specified offences and, if so, whether there is a significant risk of your causing serious harm in the process of doing so. In forming the opinion that there is a significant risk to members of the public of serious harm by you committing further specified offences, I must take into account all the information that is available about the nature and circumstances of the offence, any pattern of behaviour and all the information that is available to it about the nature and circumstances of any other offences about you.

37. I am satisfied that you both do present such a risk, because I have considered whether a standard determinate sentence is appropriate, but that type of sentence would not fully address the risk you currently represent, you both showing extraordinary unpredictability and a sense of revenge over the slightest harboured sense of grievance which developed into a desire for retribution. In those circumstances, I do consider it necessary to impose an extended sentence in order to protect the public in the future.

38. In your case Mutaro Mane, I am satisfied that there is this significant risk to the public referred to in section 308 of the Sentencing Act 2020.

First, the author of the report believes that the risk you pose is greater than that suggested in the actuarial score given the nature of your offending and your use of a knife in it.

Second, I agree with that assessment. The actuarial assessment is not borne out by the facts of this case.

Third, you did not pick up a knife on impulse, but you either carried it to the scene and onto the bus or you fetched from the side of the alley and took it out into the street where you directly confronted Demar Brown on the bus.

Fourth, you immediately went on the attack with a knife poised head-high ready to strike down on him, which could have wounded anyone in the immediate area of the bus aisle, eventually stabbing him 14 times. If, you remain under the illusion that what you did was in self-defence it is untenable, not only by what I could see on the cctv but also because you pleaded guilty.

Fifth, you explained to the jury that you had concealed a 10-12-inch knife down your shorts that day because in 2018 you had been stabbed in the leg and knee when catching a bus, after leaving a friend's house in Woolwich. Shortly after that on 8/3/21 you were convicted in Bristol Crown Court for drugs conspiracy during 7 months of the early January 2020 and received an

immediately 3-year sentence. You were then 22 years old, yet 7 years on now as a 29-year-old you continued to carry a knife. Although you said you carried the bladed article inside your waistband, it was ready for your right hand to pull out and use it as the CCTV from the bus demonstrates.

Sixth, the worrying fact in your cases is that you said had it by coincidence because you were going to a party in Plumsted at 3 pm and going to return home later at night and the day before you were in Manchester returning to Woolwich on the day of the attack on Demar Brown.

Seventh, you said that this incident did not arise as a result of any gang or rival dispute, but you took a knife that day because you were going on public transport and you didn't have funds for a mini cab. This makes you even more unpredictable.

Eighth, whilst you do not have any other weapons-based offences recorded against you and a limited violent type of behaviour, it is your willingness to use a weapon, with the intent to cause serious harm at any time, in any place and in front of anyone just from the slightest resentment deep-seated feeling of hostility, and it was good fortune, rather than good judgement, that a fatal injury was not inflicted.

Ninth, the index offences are also viewed as a clear escalation in relation to Mr Mane's offending behaviour, seriousness and potential harm posed.

Tenth, I wholeheartedly agree with the author of the pre-sentence report dated 1/6/25 when he said that this incident was easily avoidable and unnecessary colour that it resulted due to your inflated and insecure ego and it was an act of retribution demonstrating that the carrying of a knife in these circumstances indicated your willingness to engage in high risk taking.

39. Ashley Lewis the jury found you guilty and rejected any notion of you rescuing Mr Mane. In maintaining that position, you have not accepted full responsibility for your actions. It is for all those reasons I take the view that you pose a high risk of harm to the public and I find you dangerous within the meaning of Section 308 of the 2020 Act.

40. My reasons for reaching that conclusion start at the previous conviction for violent disorder and assault. It was a continuous violent conduct in public. Second, like the author of the PSR, my assessment is that you made no attempt to diffuse the situation, instead you lacked self-control and chose to behave in an anti-social way with Mr Mane in the middle of the day, and in full view of the public.

Third, you also represent a person who predictably will pose a high risk of causing serious harm to members of the public by committing further specified offences in the future.

Fourth, it must not be forgotten that in 2017 you were sentenced to 34 Months Imprisonment for drug offences and as assessed in the PSR you present a risk of serious harm to others, particularly members of the public, including strangers, and you seem uncontrolled in situations involving peer influence, in a public setting with the capacity for harm in unpredictable circumstances.

### **Sentence on Count 2 – section 18**

41. During the course of many sentencing exercises I have attempted to bring this message home to the public and to young people in a stark way, by imposing lengthy sentences to represent how the courts can deter and help reduce, so far as possible and eradicate the use of knives in violent attacks on other persons, some who are perfectly innocent young men. It follows that at the forefront of my mind, I should focus on the reduction of crime, necessarily by deterrence, and the protection of the public.

42. In each of your cases for count 2, there will be an extended sentence. Ashley Lewis, I sentence you to 8½ years imprisonment with a 5 year extension licence making a total sentence expressed as 13½ years. I will activate the suspended sentence order by imposing a reduced concurrent term of 12 months imprisonment. Mutaro Mane, I sentence you to 9 years imprisonment with a 5 year extension licence, pursuant to section 279 of the Sentencing Act 2020 expressed as 14 years. The extended sentence will be made up of two parts: a custodial period and an extended licence period.

43. You will serve two-thirds of the custodial period in prison before the Parole Board will consider whether it is safe to release you, and if so on what terms. Once released, you will serve on licence any part of the custodial period which remains, and you will then be subject to an extended licence for a further period of 5 years. If, when you are subject to licence, you commit another offence or fail to comply with the terms of your release, you are liable to be recalled to custody and may serve the entire sentence in custody.

### **Sentences on Count 3 – blade**

44. Mutaro Mane you pleaded guilty to count 3 which was the offence of possessing a bladed article in public. Clearly from the injuries caused to Demar Brown it was a dangerous weapon and fits in category A culpability with the harm in category 1 because the offence was committed in circumstances where there was a risk of serious disorder in broad daylight in a busy location on the street and bus. The s/p is 2 years custody but you admitted carrying a blade for 7 years and so this was not a momentary lapse or carry on the spur of the moment. This increases the 2 years but reducing the increase on account of the guilty plea, that remains at 2 years but will run concurrent to the sentence on count 2

### **Ancillary Orders**

45. Surcharge applies in both your cases and will be collected in the Magistrates Court. I also order forfeiture and destruction of all knives found at the scene

46. I direct that a copy of these sentencing remarks should be provided to those persons who gave witness statements but did not give evidence at the trial for obvious reasons. The provisions in CrimPD Paragraph 9.6.1 applies

and I direct that a copy of my written sentencing remarks are made available to them now that sentence has been passed. The copy should be provided as soon as is reasonably practicable and will be made available from the Judicial Press office. Thank you.

His Honour Judge Martyn Levett DL.

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

### **Commendations and thanks**

The investigation which led to this trial and these convictions was met with many obstacles due to the reluctance of witnesses to assist and the victim refusing to co-operate with enquiries but the police officers, investigators, and medical profession who played their part are to be commended for the extremely professional and skilful way in which they carried out their duties.

His Honour Judge Martyn Levett DL.

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026