



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

LIVERPOOL CROWN COURT

R

-V-

HASSAN AND OTHERS

SENTENCING REMARKS* OF HIS HONOUR JUDGE GERALD CLIFTON

9 MAY 2012

You have all been convicted by the jury after a long and careful trial of very grave sexual offences which were committed between the springs of 2008 and 2010. They involved the grooming and sexual exploitation of several girls aged in their early teens. In some cases those girls were raped callously, viciously and violently. In some cases they were driven round Rochdale and Oldham to be made to have sex with paying customers. Most of you were many years older than they were. They were going through a period in their lives full of difficulty and misery. One had left her parent's home and another had been in care for many years. You attracted them to your company by flattery, free food and alcohol. Some of you acted as you did to satiate your lust, some to make money out of them. All of you treated them as though they were worthless and beyond all respect. I believe that one of the factors that led to that was that they were not of your community or religion. Indeed [A], said in the course of the trial that he did not wish to be seen with young white girls in his community in Oldham. Some of you raised in the trial the suggestion that this prosecution was triggered by racial factors. That is so much nonsense. As I have said, what triggered this prosecution was your lust and greed. I wish to emphasize that the sentences I am about to pass on you all are sentences which would apply to all defendants be they white or Asian. I say that partly because it is the only proper way to approach sentence and partly because I am obliged to and do observe the guidelines set out by the Sentencing Guidelines Council, now The Sentencing Council. In relation to that, where one of you has been convicted of both trafficking a single girl and conspiracy to engage in penetrative sex with more than one girl, I intend to pass concurrent sentences but have increased the sentences in accordance with the latest guidelines on totality from the Sentencing Council.

I will now deal with you individually according to the counts of the indictment upon which the jury have convicted you.

[A]

You raped a young girl of 15 on several occasions and gave her to a young man that you referred to as your nephew to be raped by him. You deliberately got her very drunk and then overcame what defence she put up by violence and blackmail. Having seen the way in which you have treated this court I can quite well understand the fear that she must have felt. You are an unpleasant and hypocritical bully. You tried to embark on the same course with another 15 year old girl but she firmly put you in your place. The sentence on the rape counts reflects the total of your criminality and the principle of totality. Your total sentence is 19 years on the counts of rape, 8 years on the trafficking, 8 years on the conspiracy and 6 months on the sexual assault, all to be concurrent.

Kabeer Hassan

You though young and of previous good character have been convicted of the grave offence of rape. You had already for a short period been involved in the conspiracy by grooming potential victims. You must have known that this 15 year old girl was not consenting to sex forced upon her by [A's] orders. You took no pity on her. When interviewed, you slyly tried to avoid the significance of any scientific evidence that might be found against you. I reduce your sentence for rape by one year on the basis of your being under the influence of [A] but this was a rape by more than one offender acting together for which the starting point is 10 years. The sentence is 9 years for rape and 3 years concurrent for conspiracy. The SOA notification regime will apply to you for an indefinite period. I direct that the period of 6 days spent in custody on remand shall count towards your sentence.

Abdul Aziz

I have to sentence you for conspiracy to engage in sexual activity with a child by penetrative sex and trafficking for sexual exploitation a 15 year old girl. You are an intelligent man, referred to by some of your co-accused as The Master. You took over from [A] and ran this operation with [X]. You took the victim who was so many years younger than you to the Jephrey St. flat. You knew that she had been or was to be plied with weed and vodka. You then coerced her into sex with men. You took her there several times a week for a period of 3 months. You also took her twice to a flat in Falinge and to Ashworth Valley. You received payment from these men. You made her have anal sex when she was menstruating. I accept that you did not have sexual intercourse with her yourself. Society finds this sort of behaviour repugnant. In my view, having watched you carefully during this trial I am satisfied that the degree of coercion you used towards her was real and severe and that this constitutes an additional aggravating factor. As far as the conspiracy count is involved, you were aware that a large number of men were involved and several girls. The sentence on you despite your previous good character must be severe. On the count of trafficking you will go to prison for 9 years. On the count of conspiracy 9 years concurrent. The SOA notification regime will apply to you for an indefinite period. I direct that the period of 336 days that you have spent in custody on remand shall count towards your sentence.

Abdul Rauf

You have to be sentenced for trafficking a 15 year old girl and conspiracy. The trafficking varied between your driving her to a lonely area near Heywood and having sex with her in your taxi and driving her to a flat in Rochdale where you and others had sex with her. This happened from 10 to 20 times .The image you gave during this trial was of a deeply hypocritical individual. I accept that you have health issues. On the count of trafficking you will go to prison for 6 years and on the count of conspiracy for 6 years concurrent. The SOA notification regime will apply to you for an indefinite period. I direct that the 179 days that you are entitled to shall count towards your sentence.

Mohammed Sajid

You fall to be sentenced on one count of rape, two of conspiracy, one of penetrative sexual activity with a girl aged as young as 13 or 14 years, and trafficking a girl of 15. The rape took place when this girl was very drunk on vodka and other drinks. She had been asleep. You knew that she did not consent but carried on regardless. You ejaculated over her. The starting point for such a rape is 8 years but there are two additional aggravating factors that I have just mentioned. I also bear in mind your criminality on the other counts when reaching a sentence for all your offending which is proportionate and fair in totality. On the count of rape you will go to prison for 12 years, on each conspiracy and the count of sexual activity for 6 years concurrent. On the trafficking count which falls towards the lower end of the range, there will be a concurrent one year sentence. The SOA notification regime will apply to you for an indefinite period. I direct that the period of 165 days that you have spent on remand in custody shall count towards sentence.

Adil Khan

You fall to be sentenced for two offences of conspiracy and trafficking a 15 year old girl. During the course of this case the jury heard that you in your forties had formed a relationship with a 15 year old girl from which she became pregnant. Until you were forced to do so by scientific proof, you refused to admit that relationship. Having met another 15 year old at one address you trafficked her to another where she had sex with you and another about 4 times. When she remonstrated with you about what you were ordering her to do, you used violence towards her. You too are an intelligent man and also in my view a hypocrite. On the trafficking count you will go to prison for 8 years with 8 years concurrent on the conspiracy count. The SOA notification regime will apply to you for an indefinite period. I direct that the period of 336 days that you have spent in custody on remand shall count towards your sentence.

Mohammed Amin

You have to be sentenced for conspiracy and sexual assault. Your participation in the conspiracy was not as persistent as that of others but remains serious. You were prepared to have sex with clearly under age girls. The sexual assault on the 15 year old in your taxi was towards the lower end of the scale and not persisted in. On the conspiracy count you will go to prison for 5 years with 1 year concurrent on the sexual assault count. The SOA notification regime will apply to you for an indefinite period. I direct that the period of 179 days that you have spent on remand in custody shall count towards your sentence.

Abdul Qayyum

You have been convicted on the count of conspiracy only. You at the age of 40 had sex with two underage girls, one on only one occasion. You used at least two addresses. The sentence on you is that you go to prison for 5 years. The SOA notification regime will apply to you for an indefinite period. The period of 6 days that you have spent on remand in custody shall count towards sentence.

Hamid Safi

You have been convicted of Conspiracy and Trafficking. The trafficking count falls toward the lower end of the scale of such offences. As for the conspiracy, I accept that you were involved for a period as short as 3 weeks. In the light of the jury's verdicts on the counts of rape it is difficult to pin point your exact role. I believe that you were there to attract young girls because of your own youth and to give a veneer of respectability to an otherwise suspicious set up. You have no right to be in this country and I hope that you will be forced to leave it at the conclusion of your sentence. The sentence on you for the conspiracy count is one of 4 years imprisonment with one year concurrent for the trafficking count. The SOA notification regime will apply to you for an indefinite period. The period of 291 days that you spent on remand in custody I direct shall count towards your sentence.

In the case of every defendant I make a Disqualification Order under s28 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 which disqualifies you from working with children forever in the future. You are to be included in the barred list.

* Reporting restrictions prevent the identification of A. As a result some redactions in square brackets have been made.