



JUDICIARY OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES

**In the Central Criminal Court**

**Regina**

**v**

**Jack Renshaw**

**Sentencing Remarks of Mrs Justice McGowan**

**17 May 2019**

1. As a child you became interested in, and then obsessed by, Nazi history and beliefs. You told a jury in an earlier trial the following facts about your background:

- That you had held extreme right-wing views since age 14.
- That you were convinced that there was an international Jewish conspiracy, which obsessed you.
- That you viewed the State as oppressing the white community, by encouraging non-whites to enter the country, a state of affairs which the Jews were encouraging.

- Nothing was more important than ending the Jewish control of this country
- That you hated Jewish people and they should all be dead. That was the subject of the speech you gave at the Yorkshire Forum when you called for the eradication of the Jews.
- You do not accept that the holocaust happened during the Second World War and agreed with the views set out in the “Multiculturalism is Genocide” poster
- A race war was inevitable and “we” had to be prepared to fight that war.

2. You have never grown out of that obsession. Your perverted view of history and current politics has caused you to believe it right to demonise groups, simply because they are different from you and, in furtherance of that obsession, you set out to plot to kill.

3. Having originally become involved in the British National Party you moved on to join National Action. That organisation had come to the attention of the authorities in 2013. Its expressions of support and congratulations for the brutal murder of Jo Cox MP in 2016 lead to its being proscribed.

4. You praised the murder of Jo Cox in tweets and posts in June 2017. In some bizarre way you saw this as a commendable act and set out to

replicate that criminal behaviour. You had researched, found and purchased the machete shown in the tweets that you posted.

5. By July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 you had formulated your plan about which you openly bragged to your fellow onetime members of National Action. Your intention was to kill your local MP Rosie Cooper because she was a member of the Labour Party and therefore responsible for mass immigration. That would show your support for the murderer of Jo Cox.

6. You had previously carried out research on the internet about how to cut a jugular artery and how long it would take that person to die.

7. Your twisted political ideas were not the only reason that you set out to plan this killing. You wanted revenge on those who had prosecuted you for incitement to racial hatred and the sexual offences you had committed against children. You acted in a polite and respectful manner to Detective Henderson all the while planning how to kill her and put others at risk.

8. You intended to take ordinary members of the public hostage in a public house, you would then demand that Detective Constable Victoria Henderson, who had investigated the sexual allegations, come to the scene. You intended to kill her and to cause armed police who would have been called to the scene to shoot you.

9. From your own words you said:

- That you had held the plan to kill Rosie Cooper MP and DC Henderson for “just less than a month.”
- That you would attack Rosie Cooper MP at a social event as you were aware that she was an active constituency MP. You intended to use the machete to hack at her jugular.
- You described her as someone who was easy to get to, as she was an attentive constituency MP and therefore a “logistical target”.
- You intended to kill Rosie Cooper MP to strike a blow against the State and show that “no matter how passive a dog may be if you beat it for long enough it bites.” You saw her as representing the Jewish controlled State oppressing the white community. You saw her as committing treason; she deserved to die as she represented a false democracy.
- You said you would send a text to Detective Constable Henderson asking her to meet you at a café. You expected her to attend. You would kill her first.

10. These were detailed arrangements. You had thought deeply about them, researched them and purchased the lethal weapon. You had worked out Rosie Cooper’s itinerary.

11. To kill a Member of Parliament because of their political allegiance is an attempt to damage our entire system of democracy. In planning to kill Victoria Henderson you would have risked the lives of many others and

would, if you had succeeded, burdened other police officers with the consequences of having to shoot you.

12. Count 1 is an offence of Engaging in conduct in preparation of a terrorist act contrary to section 5 Terrorism Act 2006.

13. The maximum sentence for offences under section 5 Terrorism Act 2006 is life imprisonment. On 28 March 2018, the Sentencing Council published new sentencing guidelines for terrorism offences, which apply to all offenders aged 18 or older, and who are sentenced on or after 27 April 2018, regardless of the date of the offence. Those guidelines apply in your case.

14. The Crown submits that the culpability in this case should be categorised at level B; you were acting alone in terrorist activity where preparations were advanced and, but for apprehension, the activity was likely to have been carried out. Your own evidence made it plain that you fully intended to carry out this attack.

15. You planned to kill a serving Member of Parliament and threatened to kill a serving police officer. I accept the submission that the appropriate way to deal with count 2 is to treat it as an aggravating feature of count 1 and to impose a concurrent sentence. Your plan involved killing 2 people and risking the lives of others. More than one death within the Terrorist Guidelines, falls either within category 1 or category 2 of the harm

category. As I cannot be confident that you would not have been stopped by the police after launching the first part of this attack, this better fits within harm category 2, namely “multiple deaths risked but not very likely to be caused.” I cannot accept the submission that death was not likely to be caused.

16. Under the Sentencing Council Guidelines, the starting point for a Category 2B offence, is life imprisonment with a minimum term of 15 years in the range term 10-20 years.

17. The report prepared by the Probation Service assesses you as posing a high risk of serious harm to the public. You are undoubtedly a dangerous offender. You represent a continuing threat to minority groups, particularly Jewish people.

18. The Crown rightly submits that this offence involves a plan to kill a serving Member of Parliament and is therefore an attack on democracy. Had the murder taken place, a whole life term could have been imposed under schedule 21 Criminal Justice Act 2003 as a murder “done for purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.” Had Detective Constable Henderson been murdered, a life term with a 30-year minimum term would have applied under schedule 21 Criminal Justice Act 2003.

19. The following factors increasing seriousness apply:

- Offence committed whilst on bail.
- Recent and repeated possession or accessing of extremist material.
- Communication with other extremists.

20. I bear in mind the consequences on the two victims in this case and the continuing detrimental impact that your criminal behaviour will have on them. The statements they have made about these consequences show the valuable contribution they both make to our society and well-being. The dignity and bravery they have demonstrated show the true public spirit and interest that motivates their work. You have not defeated them.

21. Count 2 is an offence of Making a threat to kill contrary to s16 Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

22. The maximum sentence for making threats to kill is 10 years.

23. You are 23 years old and currently serving the following sentences:

- 3-year term of imprisonment for 2 offences of stirring up racial hatred [Yorkshire Forum and Blackpool speeches]
- Consecutive 16-month term of imprisonment for 4 offences of inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

24. Your current earliest date of release is 05/09/2019.

25. It is said on your behalf that you are young, naïve and come from a troubled background. I take all those factors into account to the extent that is proper.

26. I am required to consider how long the required period of notification should be in this case, under the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 s.47-.56. In this case the period is 30 years.

27. Under section 23A Terrorism Act 2000, I order the forfeiture of the items listed; the machete and electronic devices.

28. This was the planned murder of a serving Member of Parliament. In my view this is a case in which only a sentence of life imprisonment can meet the appalling seriousness of your offending. The assessment of the minimum term on that count will take account of the aggravating factor of the second count. That was the threat to kill a police officer acting in the course of her public duty. In determining the minimum term I bear in mind the principle of totality. This sentence will run concurrently to the sentence being served.

29. To your credit you pleaded guilty, you will have credit for your pleas. Given the timing of those pleas, it cannot be more than 10%.

30. The top of the range for the first of these two offences is 20 years and in my view the combination of the features of this case would put the sentence for count 1 alone at the top or above the top of that range. The addition of the



aggravating effect of count 2 increases the term substantially. Adjusting for totality I set the term that would have been imposed in this case at 25 years and giving you credit for your plea and all that has been said on your behalf the term imposed is 20 years. You will be subject to a notification condition for 30 years.

31. The sentence is life imprisonment and you will not be considered for release until you have served 20 years and only then if the relevant authorities consider it right to do so.