

London woman imprisoned for longer after firearms found at her flat

News story

Kelly Smith has had her sentence increased at the Court of Appeal following intervention by the Solicitor General, the Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP



A woman from Wood Green found in possession of firearms and live ammunition will be jailed for longer after the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP, referred her sentence for being too low.

On 4 February, the police attended the flat of Kelly Smith, 45, in Wood Green, North London. During the search, police officers found a suitcase on the balcony of the flat. It contained a sawn-off shotgun, pocket revolver, unfired cartridges and multiple rounds of ammunition. A blue stab-proof vest was also found in her kitchen cupboard.

The offender was arrested a short time later and interviewed by police. Smith admitted possession of the suitcase, but said she was unaware that it contained the weapons and that she had been pressured into accepting custody of it. However, she accepted that she had received it in circumstances where, the prosecution said, it was obvious that the purpose was serious criminality.

On 21 April 2020 Smith was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment at Wood Green Crown Court. After the Solicitor General's intervention, the Court of Appeal today increased her sentence to 4 years' imprisonment.

Speaking after the hearing the Solicitor General said:

Possessing weapons of this nature creates a danger for the general public. I hope this revised sentence sends a clear message to anyone harbouring illegal weapons, that when you are caught you will spend many years in jail.

E3 Statement on verification and monitoring in Iran (JCPoA) at the IAEA Board of Governors, June 2020

France, Germany, and the United Kingdom would like to thank the Director General for his latest report (GOV/2020/26) and the Deputy Director General for the Technical Briefing.

We commend the IAEA for fulfilling its mandate to verify and monitor the implementation of the JCPoA by Iran with impartiality and professionalism. We greatly value the approach the IAEA has taken in conducting its work, and welcome the Agency's regular and objective reporting.

As participants to the JCPoA, we reiterate our continued support for the agreement, and our commitment to working towards its preservation and full implementation. We are extremely concerned by Iran's violation of its nuclear commitments, which have grave and irreversible proliferation consequences.

Iran continues to enrich uranium above the 3.67% JCPoA limit and is stockpiling low-enriched uranium far beyond the authorised limit of 300kg UF₆. Since the March Board, Iran has significantly increased this stockpile, which is now almost eight times higher than the limit Iran has agreed to in the JCPoA. This is despite the Board sending a strong message to Iran in March.

Iran is also continuing research and development on numerous models of advanced centrifuges several times more powerful than Iran's standard machines, no longer respecting the relevant restrictions in the JCPoA. In contravention of the JCPoA, Iran is accumulating low-enriched uranium through its R&D activities, including, inter alia, by feeding UF₆ into cascades of 164 IR-2m, 164 IR-4 and 135 IR-6 centrifuges.

Through this R&D Iran is irreversibly improving its enrichment capabilities. This is a matter of significant concern.

Iran's enrichment activities at Fordow, which were resumed in November 2019, raise grave proliferation concerns. There is no plausible civilian justification for enriching uranium at this underground facility.

In view of Iran's measures contrary to the JCPoA, the E3 initiated the JCPoA's Dispute Resolution Mechanism on 14 January. We did so in good faith and in hope of finding a diplomatic way forward, while preserving the agreement. We have been clear that our overall goal is a diplomatic solution to bring Iran back to compliance, and that this decision did not mean taking

an automatic path to the UN Security Council. We encourage Iran to engage constructively in substantial discussions with us and the other remaining JCPOA participants in this regard.

On 26 February 2020 the JCPOA Joint Commission met and had a constructive exchange of views. We have continued discussions. However, for these conversations to bear fruit Iran needs to come back into full compliance with all of its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA without further delay.

We have been consistently clear in stating our regret and concern regarding the US withdrawal from the JCPOA including by not extending sanction waivers for nuclear non-proliferation projects, which are key to the JCPOA and have been endorsed by UN Security Council resolution 2231. We will continue to contribute to the Arak Modernisation Project and support EU-led civil nuclear cooperation projects as part of the implementation of Annex 3.

As E3, we have continued to lift sanctions as foreseen by the JCPOA and have made additional efforts to facilitate legitimate trade with Iran by making INSTEX fully operational.

In order to support the Agency's verification and monitoring in Iran and to cover extra costs related to the Covid-19 pandemic, France, Germany and the United Kingdom are providing voluntary extra-budgetary contributions amounting to a total 750,000 Euros. We take this opportunity to call on Iran to resume facilitating special flights, as needed, chartered by the IAEA to compensate for the reduction in regular commercial flights due to the global health crisis.

We once again thank the IAEA for its latest quarterly report on Iran and welcome the rigorous and impartial implementation of its mandate by the Agency. We call on the Agency to continue to provide further detailed technical updates, as appropriate, and to make its latest quarterly report public.

UN Human Rights Council 43: Item 9 **General Debate**

Madam President,

The tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of the police, and others before him, has forced us to confront an uncomfortable truth. No country is immune from racism. The protests we have witnessed around the world have prompted a long-overdue reflection on the fact that we need to work harder to eliminate racism.

It is right that we allow citizens to express their strong and legitimate

feelings on this issue. As a democratic society, the UK is committed to listening and engaging in conversations about racism and equality.

The UK has undoubtedly made progress in creating a more equal society. But the work is far from over. As our Prime Minister recently acknowledged, we know that black and minority ethnic groups still face discrimination when it comes to education, employment, healthcare and criminal justice. This has to change.

Today, we reaffirm the UK's unwavering commitment to stamping out racism – at home and abroad. And we will continue to be one of the strongest advocates for the work done by the United Nations and those mechanisms helping to combat racism across the world.

Now is the time for governments to reflect on progress but also to strive to do better.

[HS2 minister starts roundtables on integrated rail plan](#)

- minister kicks off series of virtual meetings with key leaders from across the north and Midlands
- representatives to discuss HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and Midlands Engine Rail
- roundtables to focus on ensuring priorities of the whole country are central to the integrated rail plan, set to be published at the end of the year

HS2 Minister Andrew Stephenson is hosting a series of virtual meetings with leaders from across the north and Midlands, ensuring regional representatives can voice their priorities for the integrated rail plan (IRP) and the current plans for HS2, Northern Powerhouse rail (NPR) and Midlands Engine Rail.

As part of the [decision to proceed with HS2 announced in February \(2020\)](#), the government has committed to drawing up an integrated rail plan, informed by an assessment from the [National Infrastructure Commission](#), in order to look at how to deliver transformational rail improvements to the north and Midlands as quickly as possible, whilst driving down unnecessary costs and over-specification.

The roundtables, which form one part of the engagement process, will seek the views of local authorities, metro mayors, local enterprise partnerships and chambers of commerce.

Over the next 2 weeks, the minister, along with HS2 Ltd and Network Rail officials, will meet with 70 representatives from The North West, North East,

Yorkshire, East and West Midlands, with further roundtable events set to take place later in the year.

HS2 minister Andrew Stephenson said:

Our plan for a better connected country and for stronger regional economies is best realised with the voices of all of our towns and cities at the table.

Even as we work to tackle COVID-19, these meetings will ensure we do not lose momentum on developing the vital infrastructure needed for the future as quickly as possible.

I am determined to ensure each region's voice is heard as we develop our integrated rail plan, to help deliver a coordinated, pragmatic strategy best suited to the needs of communities across the north and Midlands.

The integrated rail plan will set out how to efficiently deliver rail investments to best suit the needs of those in the Midlands and north in an integrated way, and will be published at the end of the year. It will also have a focus on ensuring that lessons are learned from phase 1 of HS2 to drive down costs.

[Somalia international partners statement on fostering consensus and reconciliation](#)

World news story

The UK and partners welcome efforts by President Abdullahi "Farmajo" on dialogue, reconciliation and compromise between the national government and member states.

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

The below statement was signed by United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, United States, United Nations and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

We, Somalia's international partners, welcome the proposal by President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed 'Farmajo' on 14 June to convene a meeting between the Federal Government of Somalia and all five Federal Member State Presidents and the Governor of Benadir Region (Mogadishu), to be preceded by an initial virtual meeting. We commend this initiative to strengthen cooperation and foster consensus.

We call upon Somalia's leaders to seize this opportunity to agree a way forward on pressing national priorities, including elections, for the benefit of all Somali people. We acknowledge other recent efforts by the FGS and FMS representatives that helped lay the foundations for this dialogue.

We urge the rapid organisation, without delay, of the virtual and in-person meetings announced today. We welcome continued efforts at dialogue, reconciliation and compromise among political leaders. We further welcome the pursuit of solutions to political differences without violence and in a spirit of pragmatism and inclusivity, including in Jubaland.

We look forward to witnessing accelerated progress on Somalia's national priorities through the renewed cooperation of its leaders, and stand ready to support efforts that promote inclusive politics and preserve the unity of the country.

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