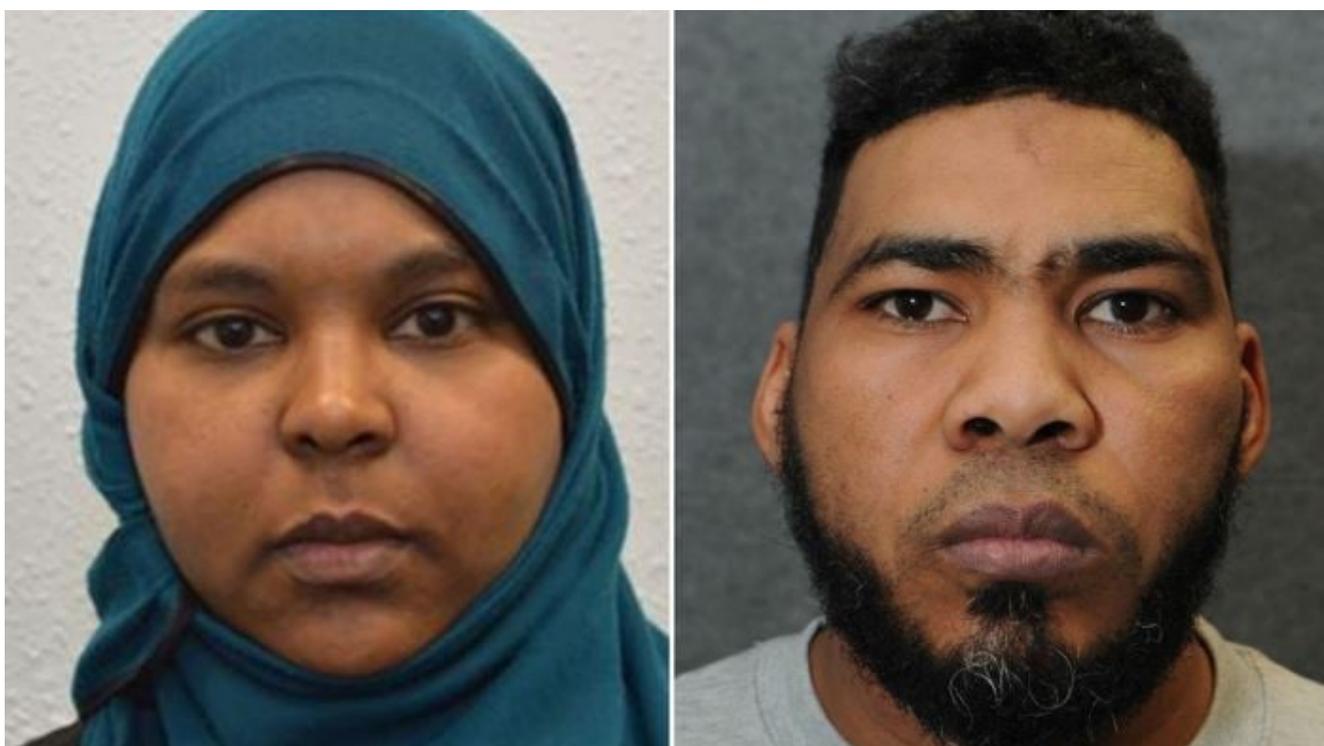


Internet dating couple jailed for plotting an Islamic State-inspired bomb or ricin attack at Christmas

From [preparing terrorist acts between November 2015 and December 2016](#).



Sentencing at the Old Bailey, Judge Michael Topolski QC jailed Mohammed for life with a minimum of 14 years.

El-Hassan, his “willing” and “enthusiastic” partner, was jailed for 12 years plus five years on extended licence.

The court heard that Mohammed arrived in Britain in the back of a lorry and claimed asylum in February 2014. He became “frustrated” at being kept in limbo for three years and appealed to Labour MP Margaret Beckett for help with his immigration problems. Using false identity documents, he worked at Kerry Foods in Derby, making sauces for supermarket

ready meals, and wooing a potential British bride he met online.

He was drawn to University College London graduate El-Hassan's skills as a pharmacist. In turn, she was looked for a simple man to "vibe with on a spiritual and intellectual level", according to her dating profile. By the spring of 2016 the pair were in regular contact on WhatsApp and had met three times in a London park near El-Hassan's home.

The court heard that since her conviction, El-Hassan's two children had been taken to live in Sudan.