

# Lee Rigby copycat killing: Would-be terrorist "groomed" teenager to attack soldiers on London streets

From [Mirror](#)

Kazi Islam, 18, is accused of "ruthlessly exploiting" 19-year-old Harry Thomas with a combination of "flattery and threats" to buy the ingredients for a pipe bomb and to attack one or more soldiers with a knife.

Prosecutor Annabel Darlow QC said Islam had befriended Thomas in October 2013 by pretending to sympathise with him over a break-up with a girlfriend. He went on to incite Thomas to kill a soldier with stories of innocent children being murdered by military forces and even suggested he start calling himself Haroon, rather than Harry.

Ms Darlow said: "As the messages between Harry Thomas and the defendant expose all too clearly, Thomas was a vulnerable, not particularly bright young man who was desperate to impress Islam and to try and forge some sort of friendship with him.

"Islam ruthlessly exploited to the utmost Thomas' vulnerability and obvious wish to try and ingratiate himself with Islam.

"Firstly he took steps to prepare to make and detonate an explosive device – a home-made bomb. Rather than risk his own neck by going out and trying to assemble the necessary component for a bomb, he tried to exploit others – Thomas in particular to buy the components for a bomb.

"The defendant also researched bomb-making over the internet

and on May 1 2014 downloaded a document entitled 'How to Make Semtex'.

"The second strand to the defendants' activities centred upon germinating a plot to attack a soldier. He repeatedly praised the actions of those who had murdered Fusilier Lee Rigby in Woolwich and actively encouraged Thomas to take the life of one or more soldiers."

In July 2014, Islam's home in Meanley Road, Newham, east London, was raided by police who seized his computer and two mobile phones. The prosecutor read out some of the messages between Islam and Thomas, who will not be giving evidence as a witness in the trial..

In November 2013, Islam asked Thomas: "Did u get the ingredients mate?"

Thomas replies that he got "some pipes" but during the course of the conversation it appeared that he got the wrong ones.

In December 13 2013, Thomas asked: "who're we gonna blow up" and Islam replied "no-one" adding "I'll tell you wen I see you (sic)".

Thomas's unsuccessful attempts to be subtle were exposed in a conversation on December 20 2013, when Islam asked: "So we need to work on this cake."

Thomas responds: "cake? U mean the b o m b."

Islam wrote: "yeah yeah"

Thomas replied: "So when we made the b what we gonna do with it."

Islam ordered: "Just get the ingredients."

He later tried to incite Thomas to kill a soldier, telling him : "When I give you the order I want you to kill a soldier..2

soldiers..not yet though.”

Islam is on trial at the Old Bailey for engaging in preparation of terrorist acts. He denies the charge.