

Muslim convert behind Hyde Park plot 'pondered terror attack on Queen's funeral'

Edward Little was to be sentenced this week. Yesterday at a hearing the prosecution laid out the offences to which he pleaded guilty in May. From the [London Evening News](#). Yesterday he pleaded guilty to further offences and the Judge wants him present in person for sentencing.

A homegrown terrorist considered launching a mass gun attack on the late Queen's funeral after converting to Islam in prison, a court has heard. On September 18 last year, Little identified the Queen's funeral – due to be held at Westminster Abbey the following day – as a possible target. It was suggested that “tyrants of the earth” would be there, to which Little responded: “I was just thinking that but unfortunately it's too late.”

Edward Little, 22, rejected the plan as “too late” and instead decided to target a Christian preacher at Speaker's Corner in London's Hyde Park.

He discussed his plans including his desire to get hold of a Mac-10 submachine gun and AK-47 assault rifle with extremists in encrypted chats on the Threema messaging platform. At one point, he wrote: “I don't think there has been an attack in the UK with guns so a semi-automatic rifle would send a even stronger message.” Days later, on September 23, Little was arrested en route to buy a gun for £5,000 having taken a taxi from Brighton to London.

Little, from Pelham Street, Brighton, pleaded guilty to preparing acts of terrorism and appeared at the Old Bailey on Monday by video-link from HMP Full Sutton in Yorkshire.

Opening the facts of the case against him, Duncan Penny KC said: “The defendant is an Islamic extremist who planned to

murder the Christian preacher Hatun Tash at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park. The defendant planned to murder those who were with Hatun Tash, and any police officers or soldiers who were in the area."

Little is not the man who slashed Miss Tash's face open at Speakers Corner in July 2021. With clear photographic evidence from several angles and the presence of dozens of police officers one can only conclude that the failure to arrest and charge him is a deliberate political decision.

In his chats on Threema, he referred to Hasham Tash as an "evil witch" and said he could shoot her "point blank" and "everyone with her". He suggested that with the money he had and his ability to get more weapons he "should strike a bigger target". Little said he would wear a camera so he could live-stream the attack. Little revealed that he "100%" had a "brother in prison" who would be joining in the "operation". He said he would travel to London for reconnaissance and see if it was best to "have us hit separate targets".

At the hearing on Monday, Little also pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm with intent to a fellow inmate at Belmarsh prison on April 3. Little attacked the victim with boiling water mixed with sugar and two razor blades for "disrespecting" his religion.

The defendant had been convicted of 14 offences in seven separate cases, including for robbery, having a knife and drug dealing, dating back to 2017.

Mrs Justice McGowan adjourned sentencing to a date to be fixed for a report to be prepared on Little's future risk and for him to be given the opportunity to attend court in person.