

Reading terror victim's family demands to know why murderer was in UK after asylum had been rejected

From the [Reading terror attack](#) has demanded to know why the failed Libyan asylum seeker was even in the country at the time of the outrage.

...Mr Furlong's family said there were serious questions around why the former child soldier from Tripoli was free to carry out his murderous attack in Britain.



The custody photograph of Khairi Saadallah following his arrest on murder charges in Reading
| CREDIT: AFP/Counter Terrorism Policing South East

Saadallah, who was a member of a banned terrorist group in Libya, first came to the UK seeking asylum in 2012 but was turned down by the Home Office.

Despite racking up a string of criminal convictions for violence he remained in the country for the next eight years and just days after being released from prison last June, bought a knife and went on his murderous rampage.

It has also emerged that while he was serving a prison sentence in 2013 he fell under the [spell of the radical preacher, Omar Brooks](#), who is suspected of further

radicalising him.

Nick Harborne, chief executive of the Reading Refugee Support Group (RRSG), who had dealt with Saadallah since 2016, also claims to have warned the authorities four times that he could commit a violent crime if he did not receive appropriate support. *I'm not sure what form 'appropriate support' would take; a large ball and chain round his neck and an alarm that screeched 'beware the jihadist' when he left the house might have worked.*

Mr Furlong's father, Gary, said: "On the facts of this case, there are now serious questions that need answering, most notably, how the killer was ever in a position to commit these horrific acts.

"Seeking asylum here in 2012 he has obtained a litany of criminal convictions, including assaults on the public, police, and emergency services, along with carrying a bladed weapon. Whilst in prison it was decided by the Secretary of State on June, 4 2020, just two weeks prior to the attack, that his deportation was in the public interest but for legal reasons it could not happen."

"I've got to be really realistic and you look at this person and you've got to say how was he ever allowed to stay in this country? How was he allowed into this country in the first place? . . . The Secretary of State needs to tell us why this guy wasn't put into some sort of detention centre before they could deport him. He wasn't safe to put back on the streets."

Unlike Doreen Lawrence Mr Furlong won't have the might of the race relations industry to bankroll him but it would be good if somebody could make the government look long and hard at these security shortcomings.

Mr Justice Sweeney said he was in no doubt Saadallah had lied about his role with Ansar Al Sharia and had held extremist Islamic views.

After his asylum application was rejected Saadallah appealed the decision but was again turned down.

However, he was not deported and in 2013 he absconded and was only tracked down months later.

He initially agreed to leave the UK voluntarily but later changed his mind and despite amassing seven convictions for 19 offences remained in the UK.

In 2018 he was granted temporary leave to remain until 2023, but last June, just days before