

## **Press release: Two men jailed for longer after brutal Gravesend attack**

Two violent attackers have had their sentences increased today after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred them for being too low.

On July 16 2017 Aiden St Louis, 19, and Mohammed Gedi, 22, pursued their 18-year-old victim into a busy fast-food restaurant and carried out a sustained attack in front of horrified onlookers. St Louis was armed and repeatedly stabbed the victim with a kitchen knife.

The pair was originally sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court in March. St Louis received 6 years 6 months' imprisonment in a young offenders' institution with an extension period of 3 years, and Gedi received 7 years' imprisonment. Today, after the Solicitor General's reference, the Court of Appeal increased St Louis' sentence to 9 years with an extension period of 3 years and Gedi's to 9 years 6 months'.

Commenting on the sentence increase, the Solicitor General said:

This was a vicious and sustained attack which deserved a tougher punishment. I am pleased that the Court of Appeal has today agreed with my referral and increased Mr St Louis and Mr Gedi's sentences to reflect this.

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## **News story: Secretary of State announces appointments to the Parades Commission**

The Secretary of State has also announced the reappointment of existing Commission member, Mrs Anne Marshall.

Ms Joelle Black has been appointed as a member of the Parades Commission from 28 May 2018 until 31 March 2021.

Mrs Anne Marshall has been re-appointed to the Commission for a further three years until 31 March 2021.

## Notes for Editors

The Parades Commission was set up in 1997. Its powers and duties are to be found in the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998.

Further information on the Commission can be found on its [website](#)

### Biographies

Joelle Black is a Barrister-at-Law and has been a Public Prosecutor with the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland since 2008. From 2013-2015, Ms Joelle was seconded by the Foreign and Commonwealth office to EULEX Kosovo as a Special Prosecutor.

A biography for Anne Marshall can be found at on the Parades Commission's website.

### Terms of appointment

Appointments to the Commission are made in line with the Governance Code on Public Appointments and are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Members of Parades Commission for Northern Ireland receive £22k per annum for a commitment of one day per week, but this is likely to increase to two or more days in the April to August period.

Members of the Parades Commissions are appointed on a part time basis.

### Political Activity

All appointments are made on merit and with regards to the statutory requirements. Political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity in defined categories to be made public.

Neither appointee has declared any political activity within the last five years.

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## [Press release: PM call with President Poroshenko: 24 May 2018](#)

A Downing Street Spokesperson said:

"Yesterday evening, the Prime Minister held a telephone call with President

Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine.

“The two leaders discussed the Minsk process and the situation in eastern Ukraine and the need to tackle instability there.

“The Prime Minister reiterated the UK’s strong support for Ukraine, including our commitment to maintaining pressure on Russia through EU sanctions.

“She went on to discuss how the international response to the poisoning incident in Salisbury had shown that coordinated action by a broad range of allies is the most effective way to respond to Russian aggression.

“They also discussed the announcement by the Joint Investigation Team that the missile which brought down flight MH17 belonged to the Russian army – pointing out that such actions fit into a well-established pattern of Russian aggression.

“The Prime Minister offered the UK’s full support to the investigation team which is looking into the incident, which saw 10 UK citizens lose their lives.

“The Prime Minister and President discussed the importance of Ukraine’s reform agenda, and looked forward to the forthcoming Ukraine reform conference in Copenhagen and the opportunity to demonstrate the progress made.

“The Prime Minister also thanked President Poroshenko for the strong cooperation between Ukraine and the UK ahead of the Champions League Final on Saturday, where 30,000 British fans are expected to travel to Kyiv to see Liverpool take on Real Madrid.”

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## [Speech: Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster speech to Celebrating Israel at 70 event](#)

Thank you Louise and Rob for that very kind introduction.

Your Royal Highness, Chief Rabbi, Your Excellencies, lords, ladies and gentlemen, good evening, Erev Tov.

It’s a privilege to be here in the Royal Albert Hall with you this evening and an honour to be addressing you as together we celebrate one of the most remarkable stories that men and women have ever told.

It’s the story of a people resolute in their struggle for a better future, but with a dream of peace one day in their land.

It is the story of Israel.

And at the heart of this story lies a simple idea, one which every person in this hall – no matter your faith, colour or creed – can believe in...

And that is the dream of a place to call home...

...a place where communities are born, memories are created, and dreams can flourish.

Israel's story has that truth at its core.

## **The beginning of the story**

David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, once remarked that "to be a realist you must believe in miracles".

And it is fair to say that the story of Israel is one which has the belief in miracles at its heart.

Some two thousand years ago, the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans. Much of the Jewish community was enslaved or expelled from their land.

But the dream of a land to call home persisted through centuries of exile, and all too often, of persecution.

And then, a hundred years ago, the Balfour Declaration offered a hope that that dream might one day become a reality.

But barely two decades later however, the dream was almost extinguished by one of the greatest crimes in human history.

The evil of the Holocaust was something I learned about when I was still a boy – and not just from the history books or TV documentaries.

Two boys in my class at school had fathers who had, by some miracle, survived Auschwitz.

I still remember vividly how being invited to tea at one friend's house, and how, during the conversation, his dad suddenly rolled up his shirt sleeve to show the death camp tattoo still scarred on his wrist.

The Holocaust, the Shoah, that darkest chapter in human history, serves as a reminder that all of us, wherever we are from, must stamp out hate and racial prejudice wherever we find it.

But despite all odds, the spirit of solidarity and endurance which sustained the Jewish people through centuries of exile...

...also made possible the rise, out of the horror of the Holocaust, of the nation state of Israel.

## The story today

And today, as our Prime Minister, Theresa May, has said, the United Kingdom is proud to stand side by side with Israel as an ally with mutual interests, and as a friend with shared values.

For Israel has grown into a thriving democracy and a prosperous economy...

...where the values of freedom, tolerance and the rule of law lie at its heart...

...where sexual, religious and racial equality is enshrined in law...

...and where argument, disagreement and dissent are hard-wired into the Israeli character.

I'm sure you all know the story of the Jew marooned on a desert island, who showed his rescuers the two synagogues he had built.

"That's my synagogue", he said pointing, "and that's the synagogue I don't go to".

More seriously, whenever I've visited Israel, and whoever has been the Israeli Prime Minister and whatever parties have been in government, I've found their fiercest, their most ardent and relentless critics are there amongst Israelis themselves.

But this is not Israel's only strength...

...Israel is a global leader in upholding the rights of women and members of the LGBT community...

...a leading innovator in science and technology...

...home to some of the world's finest emergency relief teams...

...the proud producer of no fewer than twelve Nobel Peace Prize winners...

...and, as hard as it is for someone coming from a country used to 'nul points', the triumphant winner of Eurovision an incredible four times!

And these strengths directly benefit the United Kingdom too.

We are Israel's second largest trading partner...

...and we are Israel's number one destination for investment in Europe – with more than 300 Israeli companies operating here.

But our relationship is not simply one between governments – it is about those bonds between our peoples too.

Britain's Jewish population here in Britain is one of the most dynamic and vibrant communities that make up the diverse mix that is our modern United Kingdom.

From business to arts; to health, education, industry and literature – your contribution benefits us all...

Indeed, that is a message I am sure His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge will take to Israel when he visits in the very near future.

It is more than seventy years now since the horror of the genocide was revealed and we understood where antisemitic prejudice could lead.

It is shaming that our country is having to relearn that lesson today.

So let me be absolutely clear: antisemitism, in whatever form, has no place in our society and we will never, ever tolerate it.

It's why the design for our National Memorial to the Holocaust has now been chosen, and why that Memorial will stand next to our Parliament together with an accompanying education centre...

...a reminder that the human tragedies of the past must never be lost from the present, and that we have a duty to teach each new generation the lessons of history.

It's why Theresa May was the first leader to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's modern definition of antisemitism...

...and it's why, whatever the political disagreements between Israel and the United Kingdom have, antisemitism must never be allowed to survive by cloaking itself behind criticism of the policy of a particular Israeli government.

So as these challenges continue, be assured that we are proud to stand side by side with the British Jewish community every step of the way.

## **The story's future**

But it is the future of Israel's story to which we must now focus – and on the next chapter which is to be written.

For if Israel is to truly fulfil that dream that Balfour set out a century ago, and build that home to which it is rightly entitled...

...then it is best placed to do so in a state of peace, both with itself, and with its neighbours – for they are entitled to the dream of a home too.

We long and we pray for that future where, in the vision of the Prophet Isaiah, "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nations shall not lift up swords against nations, neither shall they learn war anymore".

The United Kingdom will always support Israel's right and obligation to defend itself and her citizens.

But we believe too that lasting security will come through peace, mutual

respect and reconciliation between Israel and all her neighbours.

And it isn't just politicians who want to see a confident and secure Israel able to prosper, and able to live in peace and security alongside an independent, peaceful Palestine state...

...it is young Palestinians from Ramallah and Hebron and Gaza...

...and young Israelis from Sderot and Jerusalem and Tel Aviv...

...they all want the same things as each other...

...to go to school and university together...

...to meet; talk; laugh; debate; learn from each other...

...and ultimately love another.

Like all good friends, the United Kingdom will not shy away from asking difficult questions...

But that is fundamentally why this vision for peace – this dream of a better future – cannot be written by the international community alone.

...it can only be written by the people of Israel and by the people of Israel's neighbours as well.

So as you all do so...

...as you work towards fulfilling that dream born all those years ago...

...as you work towards that universal cause of a place and a community to call home...

...and as you work towards a stronger, safer, more prosperous country that is at peace...

...be assured of this: the United Kingdom will be standing by your side as you write the next chapter not just of your story – but of history itself.

For as Theodor Herzl once said..."if you will it, it is no dream; and if you do not will it, a dream it is and a dream it will stay."

Thank you very much...

...have a wonderful evening...

...and Yom Huledet Sameach, Le Yisrael.

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# Speech: Minister Mark Field's speech at the Wildlife Crime Reception, House of Commons

## **Introduction**

Good afternoon and thank you to Zac Goldsmith for hosting us, and to International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) for giving me the opportunity to engage with you today.

As we all know, the spectre of wildlife poaching has been with us for decades – I remember hearing about the imminent danger to elephant and rhino populations almost 4 decades ago when I was still at school.

## **Effect of internet on IWT**

What has really changed things and accelerated the urgency of the issue in recent years is the internet. Criminal networks caught on pretty quickly that they could harness the internet to create a marketplace that is not simply local or regional. It is global.

It means that the scale of the illegal trade in wildlife has really taken off. This criminality is now thought to be worth up to £17 billion a year. To give you an illustration of the scale of the slaughter – in just 7 years from 2007 to 2014, Savannah elephant populations are thought to have declined by almost a third.

That sad statistic alone equates to around 144,000 elephants – if they stood trunk to tail they would stretch from here to John O Groats! Or was it Land's End? Well, either way I think you get the point!. It is not just elephants – the illegal wildlife trade is decimating a huge range of species, from the pangolin, killed for medicine and food, to the gentle Sumatran orangutan, of which there are now fewer than 8,000 now left.

Baby orangutan are trapped to be kept as pets. Tragically, for each and every animal reaching market, as many as 5 other die in transit. These crimes not only threaten irreplaceable wildlife with extinction. They not only leave countries and communities bereft of the iconic animals that help define them, and that could sustain livelihoods long into the future.

This illegal trade also fuels, and is fuelled by, corruption. So these criminals are also undermining sustainable development, good governance and the rule of law. This is why it is so vital that we put a stop to the illegal wildlife trade, and close down the online marketplaces for illegal wildlife products.



## **UK action**

This government is playing a leading role at home and on the international stage. Today, my colleague the Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, is introducing the [Ivory Bill in the House of Commons](#) – an important step in highlighting the UK's rejection of this horrible trade.

## **International action**

We are also taking the fight to the poachers and traffickers. Over these past 4 years, the UK government has committed £26 million to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. The British military have provided tracker training for park rangers in key African states, and we have funded the expansion of INTERPOL's operations to track and intercept shipments of illegal wildlife products, including ivory and rhino horn.

The only way to really shut down illegal wildlife trade for good is for countries to work together, so we are also strengthening international partnerships.

## **IWT conference**

In [2014 we hosted the ground-breaking London conference](#) that was praised as a turning point in global co-operation in this field. It secured ambitious agreements from more than 40 governments to take urgent, coordinated action.

To build on all this recent progress we are bringing the conference back to London this October. Please be assured we have even higher ambitions this time.

We will focus on 3 primary objectives:

- first – treating the illegal wildlife trade as a serious organised crime
- second – building coalitions of allies who share our aims
- finally – closing markets for illegal products

## **Closing online space**

As the Adessium report makes clear: we urgently need to close down online marketplaces for illegal wildlife products. I commend IFAW, WWF and TRAFFIC for the progress they made bringing together an alliance of online companies in March to commit to an 80% reduction in the online sale of illegal wildlife products by 2020.

It is encouraging that over 20 companies, including big names like Ebay, Pinterest, Facebook and Microsoft have already signed up. I hope more will do so, and that this global initiative leads to the end of illegal wildlife sales online.

## Innovations

I believe strongly that by working together, and by using the latest technology, we can – and we must – turn the tide on the illegal wildlife trade. Innovations like the ivory fingerprinting kit developed by Dr Leon Barron of King's College London, and Mark Moseley of the Metropolitan Police, will make a huge difference.

With this new technology, enforcement agencies will be able to capture better quality fingerprints from ivory and catch more of the culprits.

I congratulate Leon and Mark, both of whom are here today, on their innovation, and I am delighted to be able to announce that thanks to a generous donation from IFAW, we will be handing out kits to every country that attends the [illegal wildlife trade conference](#) in October.

## Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, imagination, collaboration and commitment like this will help us stop the traffickers. It will not be quick or easy, but we have a range of committed individuals, organisations and governments alongside us.

Our October conference is a great chance to bolster our forces. I look forward to working with you in the lead up to it and beyond. There is no time to lose. Let's work together to stamp out this miserable, criminal trade.