



JUDICIARY OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES

**IN THE CROWN COURT AT SOUTHWARK**

**REGINA -v- ANIS HEMISSI, ESTEVAN-ALEXIS PINO-MUNIZAGA, CLIFFORD  
ROLLOX & CLAUDE ISAAC CASTOR**

**SENTENCING REMARKS**

1. Flamur Beqiri, a Swedish citizen with Albanian origins, was suspected of involvement in international drug dealing and other serious crime. He was also a son, a partner and a father. His children will never know him and nothing the court does can comfort them, or reconcile those who loved him to their loss. Anis Hemissi on the evidence there is no doubt that aged just 22, with no previous convictions, in 2019 you were a gun for hire. The intricate planning that enabled you to arrive in London just a few days before shooting that man dead in front of his family as they were walking to their front door on Christmas Eve, also enabled you to leave the country within hours of his death. This was international crime at its most brutal. You carried out an audacious execution intended to induce terror in south-west London in those associated with Flamur Beqiri. But not only in this city. The impact was felt thousands of miles away because its origin is in the battle between callous gangs who disregard borders to commit crime, including targeted killings. Just months before you shot him dead Beqiri's close friend was the subject of an attack that ended in the cold-blooded murder of the mother of his child, on a street in Malmo Sweden.
2. Your evidence at trial gave the court an opportunity to evaluate you and I conclude you are an intelligent, confident and dangerous man. I have read the character references and letters which paint a different, creditable picture of your nature and inclinations. It is clear that many who knew you are shocked at this murder. I am sure you expected to get away with it and return to your other life in Sweden and Tunisia. Only the speed and skill of the Metropolitan Police investigation ruined your expectation that all signs of your involvement would be removed within hours of the killing.
3. You will serve the whole of the minimum term I pass in prison and thereafter remain on licence for the rest of your life. This murder is of particularly high seriousness. I take a 30 year starting point. The aggravating features I am sure about are that this was a murder for gain, it required significant planning and premeditation and your intention was to send a chilling message on behalf of international criminals. Your age and lack of convictions is limited positive mitigation because I am sure this was not a spontaneous or impulsive action.

You planned your disguises as early as October, purchasing costumes which, combined with masks, were used to protect your identity as you carried out reconnaissance over three days, to finalise the plans to surprise your victim, in a residential street while his guard was down.

4. Estevan-Alexis Pino-Munizaga you were 33 at the time with irrelevant previous convictions but you played a significant role in preparing the way for this murder. You travelled to London on several occasions. You were trusted to secure a safe location close to the victim's home, a means of transport and you obtained information about the locality. You knew it was important that the premises rented were private. You were convicted of manslaughter so the jury did not believe you were a dupe. I find the basis for sentence to be that you knew that a serious attack was to be mounted by a man from abroad on someone in London, but you didn't know that it was to be a shooting or intended to cause really serious harm. I take my starting point in category B because I am sure on all the evidence including the amounts of money spent on renting property that you appreciated and deliberately assisted in the plan to cause serious harm, just short of really serious harm or death. The organised crime background, which I am sure you knew about even if you were not personally involved, is an aggravating feature as is your knowledge that the attack was to take place within the vicinity of a family home, in a public street.
5. Clifford Rollox and Claude Isaac Castor you were convicted of perverting the course of justice. You were hired to carry out a clean up operation in the property Mr Pino-Munizaga had rented and which Mr Hemissi had used as a base from which to spy on and then murder Flamur Beqiri. The key question in your case is whether the court can be sure that you moved the gun away from 119 Oyster Wharf on Christmas Day less than 24 hours after the shooting. I reject your evidence, Mr Rollox, that you were only recruited on Christmas morning. Taking account of the fact that you both took a suitcase and rucksack in a cab to Enfield, at least some of the items you took on that first visit must have been important enough to move so far away from Battersea. The prohibited weapon used by Anis Hemissi has not been recovered. It was supplied in London and I am sure your journey was to convey it away and to others. This means you played your part in a vital part of this murder and you prevented the police finding the murder weapon which may have led to the apprehension of those who provided it. Whether or not you knew it was indeed a murder before you arrived at the flat what you saw there, what you removed and what you did with it mean that your culpability is very high. I am sure that you both returned to Lombard Road on 27 December which shows you were willing to continue the clearing out of that flat and were only thwarted by the presence of the police. Only the fact that you both took a break in the job you were engaged in, over Boxing Day, meant that you were not as successful as planned.
6. Mr Rollox you have had many challenges to overcome in your life and, in particular I note you have made good personal progress in the two years since

this offence. Also that you have taken on the important responsibility of being the sole carer for your two sons aged 6 and 11. I have read the character references and reports put before me and I asked for further evidence so I am fully informed. I have considered carefully whether it is possible to avoid an immediate custodial sentence and whether I can accede to the plea for mercy on behalf of those who will be most acutely impacted by your incarceration.

7. Mr Castor you are of previous good character and I am sure this offence, committed two years ago, has already had a significant impact on your ability to work and provide for yourself. I have read very positive character references which persuade me that your behaviour on this occasion was entirely out of character. On the other hand this was not spontaneous conduct and I am sure on the phone evidence that you returned with Mr Rollox on 27 December. Your culpability is equal and only custody will mark the gravity of the offence.
8. Anis Hemissi, I have taken account of everything said and presented to me on your behalf. It will be clear I have not been able to accept all of it. The sentence of the court on the charge of murder is life imprisonment. The law requires me to deduct from the minimum term I reach the days for which you were detained pending extradition and the time spent in custody before conviction; a total of 759 days. The minimum term would be 35 years of which you must serve another 32 years 336 days. For possession of a prohibited weapon I pass a sentence of 10 years imprisonment concurrent.
9. Estevan-Alexis Pino-Munizaga the sentence is one of 15 years imprisonment. The 33 days you spent in custody awaiting extradition will count against that sentence. You will serve two-thirds before being released on parole.
10. Clifford Rollox and Claude Isaac Castor the conduct for which I have to sentence you is so grave that your personal mitigation cannot prevent immediate custody. The sentence for each of you would have been four years imprisonment. I cannot pass a sentence capable of suspension Mr Rollox but the responsibility is yours: you did not take the opportunity to plead guilty and express remorse which would have been consistent with putting your children first. I reduce the sentence to allow for the inevitable impact on your children Mr Rollox, and your good character Mr Castor, as well as for the current conditions in prison, to the shortest possible term which is one of 3 years each. In your case Mr Rollox a qualifying curfew, equivalent to 475 days must count towards that sentence. You will each serve one-half before being released on parole.
11. This investigation has been an international effort. I commend the work of the Metropolitan Police under the leadership of DI Jamie Stevenson, in particular DS Skowron, and DC Moore who played an important role in identifying the flat used by the killer from CCTV footage and in presenting evidence with clarity in court. My thanks to all counsel for their skill and courtesy.