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OPERATION OVERAMP

Hassan Mutegombwa

Another defendant arrested as part of Operation Overamp was Hassan Mutegombwa, who was jailed for ten years in November 2007 for terrorism offences. This page contains information and material relating to the case against him.

Press statement:

A man who asked an undercover police officer for money so he could travel abroad to carry out terrorist attacks has been jailed for ten years at the Old Bailey.

Hussan Mutegombwa, aged 21, had a one-way ticket to Nairobi and had military-style fatigues in his luggage when he was stopped at Heathrow Airport on July 25 2006.

He was questioned about his journey and had his passport confiscated.

Mutegombwa, of Ravensdale Gardens, SE19, was found guilty by a jury of inviting someone to provide money intending that the money should be used, or he had reasonable cause to suspect the money may be used for the purposes of terrorism, contrary to Section 15(1) Terrorism Act 2000.

He denied the offence, but was convicted by a majority verdict in November 2007. Reporting restrictions were put in place by the court until the conclusion of other legal proceedings.

The court heard that on July 23 2006 Mutegombwa asked an undercover officer called Dawood, for £266 to help 'a brother' pay for a one-way flight to Africa so that he could carry out 'hidra'.

Mutegombwa told Dawood he would not get his money back as 'the brother' wasn't returning, and the only time he would see him again, would be on judgement day.

Mutegombwa asked for the money when they visited Winchelsea beach in Kent during a weekend away with a group of other men at the Jameah Islameah in Sussex.

On July 24 Dawood contacted Mutegombwa and told him he couldn't give him the money. Mutegombwa said he had found the money from elsewhere, but Dawood would be rewarded for his good intentions.

The undercover police officer had infiltrated the group of men as part of Operation Overamp, a MPS Counter Terrorism Command and Security Service operation investigating the radicalisation of young men and other terrorist-related offences.

On July 25 when Mutegombwa was stopped at Heathrow Airport his luggage contained desert camouflage trousers, desert boots, a hooded top with, 'Soldier of Allah' written on the rear, a khaki sleeveless top, a camouflage Afghan headscarf, five pairs of calf length socks and fingerless black gloves.

Mutegombwa said he was travelling to Uganda and his ticket money had come from state benefits, his brother's girlfriend and another man.

He said he intended to travel overland from Nairobi to Kampala, Uganda, to see his father who had offered him somewhere to live in Uganda.

The court was told that the clothes found in the luggage were typical of those worn by insurgents in combat areas in Afghanistan and Iraq, and details were also given of overland travel routes from Uganda to Somalia.

On August 4 2006 Mutegombwa told Dawood that he had been stopped at Heathrow Airport and had his passport taken from him.

Mutegombwa was arrested on September 1 2006 at the Bridge to China Town restaurant in Borough, along with a number of other men as part of Operation Overamp.

During a search of Mutegombwa's home police found a 'farewell' letter written by Mutegombwa's girlfriend clearly indicating his intention to leave the UK, possibly for the purpose of Jihad. It clearly inferred that his girlfriend and son would not see him again.

Mutegombwa was described in court as a vocal and respected member of the group of men after he was heard on a recording device which had been placed in a house where the men regularly met.

Mutegombwa also took part in a paintballing trip in June 2006 which involved military-style training.

Mutegombwa told the court that he did not hold radical extremist views and had decided to start a

new life in Uganda.

He denied any intention of carrying out a suicide bombing, or joining Jihad to fight against coalition troops in Somalia.

[Image 1](#) - Charge photo

[Operation Overamp homepage](#)

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