

INQUEST TOUCHING ON KHURAM BUTT, RACHID REDOUANE & YOUSSEF ZAGHBA

OPENING REMARKS.

1. You have all been sworn in as the jury for this hearing. My name is Mark Lucraft. I am the Chief Coroner of England & Wales and the coroner for these inquests.
2. These are inquests into the deaths of Khuram Butt, Rachid Redouane and Youssef Zaghba. They all died on 3rd June 2017. This hearing concerns three deaths as a result of the actions of armed police officers in the area of Borough Market. As a result, under our law where an inquest takes place into such a death, it must be conducted by a coroner sitting with a jury.
3. The role of the coroner is to investigate violent or unexplained death. In England and Wales, the office of coroner has existed for almost 1,000 years. Evidence of the office dates back to the reign of Richard I in 1194, but it might have earlier origins.
4. The role of the coroner has developed and changed over the centuries. Initially the office was closely connected to revenue collecting on behalf of the monarch. As time went on it focussed on the investigation of the cause of death. There are approximately 120 full-time coroners and 300 part-time coroners in post today. Each an independent judicial officer holder overseeing investigations into deaths reported to them.
5. In 2017 there were some 533,118 deaths registered in England & Wales. Of those some 229,700 deaths were reported to a coroner. 31,519 inquests were opened in 2017 and so one can see that some investigation by a coroner resolves the vast majority of issues around death without the need for an inquest at all. Of the 31,519 inquests that were opened many will have taken a day or less to resolve. There are approximately 500 inquests each year that take place – as here – with a coroner and a jury.

Summary of the case.

6. On 3rd June 2017 just after 22:00 Khuram Butt, Rachid Redouane and Youssef Zaghba drove a Renault Master van across London Bridge. Their van mounted the pavement several times and struck a number of pedestrians. Two people sustained fatal injuries: Xavier Thomas and Christine Archibald. Many others suffered serious injuries but survived. Others suffered less serious injuries. The vehicle went on to crash into railings close to the Barrow Boy and Banker pub at the southern end of London Bridge.

7. Butt, Redouane and Zaghba then got out of the vehicle. They were each armed with a large kitchen knife and were wearing belts that had the appearance of being suicide vests. They stabbed people as they made their way from the crashed van down some steps to a courtyard by a restaurant called Boro Bistro. A large number of people were stabbed in that area. They then came back up the stairs and moved south along Borough High Street. As they went along Borough High Street more people were stabbed. Two police officers and a Spanish man tried to stop the attack. They too were stabbed. Butt, Redouane and Zaghba then went into the Borough Market area and continued to attack people. By this stage they had killed six more people: Sara Zelenak, Sebastien Belanger, James McMullan, Alexandre Pigeard, Kirsty Boden and Ignacio Echeverria. Once in the Borough Market area they tried to get into various restaurants and bars. Where they managed to gain access, they stabbed more people. Altogether in their attack 8 people were killed and 48 seriously injured.
8. In the area of Middle Road and Stoney Street in Borough Market police officers from both the City of London Police and the Metropolitan Police arrived in Armed Response Vehicles and came across the attackers. Butt, Redouane and Zaghba were in the process of attacking a member of the public. They were confronted by the armed officers and were shot. The period from when the van first mounted the pavement on London Bridge to the time until the first shots were fired was some 10 minutes.
9. There has been an inquest hearing into the deaths of Xavier Thomas, Christine Archibald, Sara Zelenak, Sebastien Belanger, James McMullan, Alexandre Pigeard, Kirsty Boden and Ignacio Echeverria. That inquest hearing concluded on Friday of last week. This is now a separate inquest hearing into the deaths of Khuram Butt, Rachid Redouane and Youssef Zaghba. The focus of this hearing will be the events in the area of Stoney Street and Middle Road and the circumstances that presented themselves there to the armed police officers.
10. I have the assistance of Mr Jonathan Hough QC and Mr Aaron Moss who are leading and junior counsel to this inquest. They are assisted by Ms Sian Jones and Ms Natasha Davis of BDB Pitmans, who are the solicitors to this inquest.
11. There are no “parties” to an inquest, but there are “interested persons”, people and organisations who have the right to play a part, including by questioning witnesses. Members of the families of Khuram Butt, Rachid Redouane and Youssef Zaghba are interested persons. Mr Andrew Radcliffe QC and Mr Adam Morgan represent the widow of Khuram Butt, Zahrah Rehman. Mr Imran Khan QC represents the former partner of Rachid Redouane, Charisse O’Leary but is unlikely to attend. The family of Youssef Zaghba are not represented. Mr Richard Horwell QC and Mr Matthew Butt represent the Metropolitan Police

Service. Ms Fiona Barton QC represents the City of London Police. Ms Francesca Whitelaw represent the Secretary of State for the Home Department. Ms Sarah Simcock represents the London Ambulance Service. Hertz UK Ltd and Probus Insurance Company are represented by Kennedys solicitors. The Independent Office for Police Conduct is an interested person but is not represented in this hearing by lawyers.

Purpose of the inquests.

12. An inquest hears evidence so that you, the jury, can make findings of fact and come to a conclusion about the death. Formerly a conclusion was known as a verdict. Now we use the word conclusion to distinguish the inquest process from a criminal trial.
13. Nobody is on trial here. An inquest does not decide matters of criminal liability of individuals or civil liability. There is no question of attributing blame. The inquest is simply a way of establishing facts about the deaths of the three individuals.
14. I stress this last point as these inquests are taking place in court number one at the Central Criminal Court – or the Old Bailey as it is more commonly known. Despite the setting, this is not a criminal trial. That said, I am grateful to the Recorder of London, Nicholas Hilliard QC and to the Corporation of the City of London for allowing the use of this court and a number of adjoining rooms for the Inquest to be held here.

The four questions.

15. Your role in this inquest hearing is to answer four main questions about each of the three people who died:
 - (i) Who was the deceased?
 - (ii) When did he come by his death?
 - (iii) Where did he die?
 - (iv) How did he come by his death?
16. The last question “how did he come by his death” is the most significant one in this, as in most, inquest hearings. In this inquest hearing, it means “by what means and in what circumstances did he come by his death”.
17. You are also required, for each of those who died, to record particulars for registering the death, such as date and place of birth and occupation. You are not allowed to express an

opinion on any other matters. Your determination may not appear to determine any question of criminal liability of a named person, or any question of civil liability.

The Record of Inquest.

18. In due course, you will be asked to complete and sign three documents called Records of Inquest, one for each of the three (Butt, Redouane and Zaghba) and each setting out your findings and a conclusion about the death. That will include the medical cause of death and your other findings about how each person came by his death. I will give you further directions about these matters towards the end of the inquest hearing, including what options are open to you and how to record your conclusions.

Procedure.

19. Soon we will embark on hearing the evidence in this inquest hearing, all of which will be recorded. Counsel to the Inquest will take each witness through their evidence. Interested persons may ask questions through their counsel. I may ask questions from time to time. After that, you may ask questions to clarify matters, if you wish. Here I expect that all of the relevant questions will be put by counsel but if you do have a question you would like asked, then please write it down and pass to me. I have a duty to exclude any question that is not relevant to the purpose and scope of the inquest.
20. It is possible that some evidence may be read to you without the witness having to come to court. If that happens, it will likely be because nobody has required their attendance and their evidence is not in dispute.
21. At the end of the evidence, I will sum up the case to you. I will give you written directions on the law, indicating what conclusions you may consider, and what factual findings are required to support them. I will also summarise the evidence that has been presented to you, reminding you of the key parts of it. Some of you may wish to make your own brief notes during the evidence. At the end of my summing up I will then invite you to retire and to consider your findings and conclusion.

Some rules for jury service.

22. Do not talk to anyone outside your number about this case.

When you get home tonight friends and family who know you have started service as a juror on an inquest will want to know all about it.

23. It is very important that you do not discuss anything about the inquest with anyone. The reason is that if you have friends or family like some of mine they will be only too happy to give you the benefit of their opinion unencumbered by any knowledge of the evidence. That may affect you even subconsciously and that would be unfair.
24. You do not decide the issues in this inquest with your other jurors and your mum or your best friend. You decide those issues with the other jurors alone.
25. If family or friends ask simply tell them that it is a rule to ensure fairness and you are not by law permitted to discuss it during the inquest.
26. Of course, when the inquest is over, and you have delivered your findings and conclusion, you may discuss your experiences – but not the deliberations - with family and friends but not until then.
27. During the case, if you happen to travel to court with a fellow juror, or you happen to bump into one another away from court, please do not discuss the evidence you have heard. Any discussions you have about this case should be whilst in the privacy of the jury room.

Press coverage.

28. There has been extensive reporting of the incident behind this inquest. It is highly likely that there will be reporting of this inquest in the press. The press are entitled to publish reports of legal proceedings that are held in public. There are rules governing those reports. It is highly likely that you may see or hear some of those reports. However good the press reports are, they are unlikely to report all of the evidence that is given in court. Each of you has taken an oath or affirmation to try this case on the evidence, and it is on the evidence that you hear in court that you will make your decisions. To ensure fairness can I ask that each of you makes sure that your focus is on what is said in court in your presence.

Do not make any of your own investigations.

29. Do not be tempted to make any of your own investigations into the background of this case. You and I are fortunate as we have experienced and competent advocates to put all the relevant evidence before you and rehearse all the relevant issues for you to consider. Sit back and let them do the hard work in presenting the evidence before you.
30. Why is this rule so important? Because our whole system relies on open justice. All those in this courtroom and the public are entitled to know and hear all the evidence on which you have reached your decisions. It is a question of fairness again.

31. If you were to introduce into the jury room the fruits of your own investigations be they on the Internet, Facebook or Twitter then they would not have been tested in open court for all to see and hear.
32. We all know how wonderful the Internet is and how useful search engines such as Google can be. We also all know how unreliable they can sometimes be. Seemingly authoritative pages on the Internet can turn out to be completely false.
33. The simple rule is: do not make your own investigations.
34. Of course this does not mean you cannot use the Internet for your personal affairs. It simply means do not use it to investigate this inquest.
35. You will have heard on the news of jurors who have ignored directions like these and have been sent to prison. You may also know that Parliament has enacted specific offences of juror misconduct. These include the offences of a juror researching the case, sharing that research with jurors or engaging in prohibited conduct.
36. The last thing I want is that one of the jurors who is on this inquest should commit any offence in connection with their jury service and that is why I have given you these written instructions and will remind you from time to time during the inquest about these very important rules.
37. You all have a joint responsibility as jurors and to see that what goes on in your retirement room is in accordance with the legal directions you are given.

Approaches to you.

38. Very rarely something may happen (either outside your jury room, e.g. someone who is not on the jury may apparently try to speak to you about the case, or something may happen in the jury room itself) which causes you real concern.
39. If any of you has such a concern, please inform me about it at once discreetly in a written note via the court clerk or the usher. Do not leave it until the case is over, because it might then be impossible to put matters right.
40. We are hearing these inquests together. I am the judge of the law and you are the judges of the facts. When matters of law arise, I will deal with those in your absence. As I have indicated, at the end of the evidence I will give you directions on the law and provide you with a summary of the evidence that has been given in court.

41. Finally, please keep an open mind. The evidence will be presented to you over the coming days. Do not jump to conclusions. The time to come to any conclusions is once you have heard all of the evidence, the summing-up and you are in the privacy of your jury room.

Order of Evidence

42. We are now about to start hearing the evidence. In broad terms, the evidence will be called in the following order:

- (a) First, Detective Superintendent Riggs, the Senior Investigating Officer of the investigation into the events on 3rd June 2017 will give evidence to provide background for our inquiry. She will cover the events on the Bridge and those in the Borough Market area. We shall see video footage of the events. Some of it will inevitably be graphic. However, it is right that you should understand the background to the scene which took place in Stoney Street and Middle Road.
- (b) After that, we shall hear from some bystanders and police officers who saw events unfolding in Borough Market immediately before the arrival of the armed officers.
- (c) The armed police officers themselves will give evidence. I have ruled that they should give evidence anonymously, and we shall refer to them by pseudonyms. Nobody has taken issue with that ruling. The reason, in short, is that their job requires them not to be publicly identified. Their ability to do that job would be compromised and overall it would be unfair if their identities were published.
- (d) We shall hear evidence about the lives and backgrounds of the attackers, and the planning and preparation which they undertook in the period leading up to 3 June 2017.
- (e) We shall then hear from explosives officers who examined the attackers' bodies and the mock suicide vests.
- (f) We shall then hear from tactical advisers in the control room about the co-ordination of the armed policing response.
- (g) Expert evidence will be called, including a ballistics expert to deal with the shots fired.
- (h) There will be evidence on the training and practices of armed officers, to help us assess the responses of the officers in this case.
- (i) We shall also hear from pathologists who carried out post-mortem examinations on Khuram Butt, Rachid Redouane and Youssef Zaghba.

43. At present, we expect that the evidence will continue until around the end of next week, Friday 12 July. I shall then give you final directions, probably on Monday 15 July or Tuesday 16 July, and ask you to consider your conclusions.
44. It is likely that we shall start each day at 10.00am, sitting until no later than 4.30pm. There will be mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks of 15 minutes each, and a lunch break from 1pm to 2pm. We shall not be sitting tomorrow, Tuesday 2 July. On Wednesday 3 July we will be going to Borough Market to view briefly the scene where the shooting by the police took place.

His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft QC
Chief Coroner of England & Wales

July 1st 2019