# Three men sentenced for kidnapping Israeli music producer in Wales



A detailed and intense criminal case unfolded at Swansea Crown Court regarding the kidnapping of a London-based Israeli music producer, Itay Kashti, lured to a remote cottage in west Wales on August 26, 2022. The plot, which was described as meticulously planned, combined elements of financial extortion and anti-Jewish animus, culminating in a harrowing experience for the victim.

The defendants, Faiz Shah, 23, Mohammad Comrie, 23, and Elijah Ogunnubi-Sime, 20, were found guilty of kidnapping after they had created a façade, posing as representatives from a music production company, to coax Kashti into attending a fake music workshop in Brynteg, near Llanybydder. Their communications leading up to the crime took place in a secure group chat on the messaging app Telegram, where they devised a comprehensive plan involving false identities, rental agreements, and logistical details necessary for executing the kidnapping.

The court heard that they even prepared a "shopping list" of items required for the operation, which included handcuffs, a gag, and ketamine intended to incapacitate Kashti. Craig Jones, the prosecuting attorney, stated that the defendants carefully crafted their approach, using a false identity to rent the cottage and employing an unsuspecting taxi driver to transport the victim.

Upon Kashti's arrival, the gang attacked him and the taxi driver, managing to handcuff Kashti to a radiator inside the property after subjecting him to violence. However, they fled when the taxi driver was able to escape and raise the alarm. In the chaos, Kashti managed to free himself and seek refuge in nearby bushes, where he contacted his wife, who alerted the authorities.

The police arrived shortly after and, despite the initial escape of the defendants, located them in the vicinity. A search of the property revealed evidence of the crime, including an imitation firearm and messages detailing the gang's motions towards extorting money from the victim’s family. Notably, the prosecution highlighted their motives of financial gain intertwined with a clear animosity towards Jewish individuals, as evidenced in their communications referring to Kashti’s Jewish heritage.

In delivering the sentence, Judge Catherine Richards remarked on the “significant and highly sophisticated planning” involved in the crime, emphasising that the actions of the defendants were driven by a perception of Kashti’s wealth and his Jewish identity. She said, “It seems to me that you justified your actions against the victim based on his background, as if he was less worthy of your respect and compassion. That is utterly abhorrent.”

Kashti, in a personal impact statement read to the court, compared his ordeal to significant traumatic events in Jewish history, stating, “As a Jewish Israeli, this incident felt like my own personal October 7.” He outlined the lasting psychological effects of the kidnapping, including anxiety and decreased confidence in his professional life.

The trio was sentenced to eight years and one month in prison each, with Ogunnubi-Sime serving his time in a young offenders' institution. Following the sentencing, Inspector Gareth Jones from Dyfed-Powys Police expressed appreciation for the victim’s bravery during the ordeal and reiterated the severe nature of the crime.

Mark Gardner, Chief Executive of the Community Security Trust, which provided support to Kashti and his family, highlighted the combination of criminality and anti-Jewish hatred in this case, stressing the importance of justice for the safety of the Jewish community in the UK.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.tenby-today.co.uk/news/courts/three-men-jailed-for-extraordinary-kidnapping-plot-774572> - This article corroborates the kidnapping plot of Itay Kashti, a London-based Israeli music producer, and the sentencing of the three defendants involved in the crime. It highlights the sophisticated planning and the use of false identities to lure the victim.
* <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/gang-who-kidnapped-assaulted-and-planned-to-extort-israeli-man-in-wales-given-8-year-jail-terms-wbcjcrh1> - This article supports the details of the kidnapping, including the financial and anti-Jewish motives behind the crime, as well as the sentences given to the defendants.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as the original article detailing the kidnapping case and its aftermath, though it does not provide a specific URL for verification.
* <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10311201/> - While not directly related to the specific case, this article discusses the use of digital evidence in criminal investigations, which could be relevant to how the defendants' communications were analyzed.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_in_Wales> - This Wikipedia page provides context about events in Wales in 2025 but does not specifically address the kidnapping case. However, it could offer background information on the region where the crime occurred.
* <https://www.google.com/search?q=Itay+Kashti+kidnapping+case+Swansea+Crown+Court> - This search query can lead to various news articles and reports about the case, providing additional details and corroboration of the events described.
* <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/three-men-jailed-for-kidnapping-jewish-israeli-composer-in-west-wales-K63OOJH7LVOGRJ2MUILPCTBH3Y/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data