# Adam Khatib faces possible release after life sentence for foiled Heathrow bomb plot



Adam Khatib, a man from Walthamstow in east London who plotted to carry out a 9/11-style suicide bombing on a passenger plane departing from Heathrow, faces the prospect of release despite receiving a life sentence for his role in the foiled terrorist plot. The conspiracy, uncovered in 2006, involved Khatib and a group of Al Qaeda sympathisers who intended to detonate liquid explosives concealed in bottles of common drinks such as Lucozade and Oasis on flights bound for the United States or Canada. This revelation prompted the most significant overhaul of aviation security in history, leading to enduring restrictions on passengers’ ability to carry liquids exceeding 100ml on board flights worldwide.

Khatib was convicted of conspiracy to murder and sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 18 years following a two-month trial at Woolwich Crown Court in December 2009. At the time, he was described by the judge as "immature, attention-seeking, and cold-hearted." His co-defendant, Abdulla Ahmed Ali, the cell’s ringleader, received a minimum 40-year sentence. The plotters had prepared explosives in a makeshift "bomb factory" located in Walthamstow and conducted training in Pakistan before returning to the UK to finalise their deadly plans. MI5 and police raids in August 2006 halted the plot just as it was moving into its advanced stages.

Now aged 39, Khatib has been granted a parole hearing scheduled for August 2025, which could lead to his release if successful. The Parole Board emphasises that decisions rest solely on an assessment of the risk the prisoner may pose to the public and whether that risk can be managed in the community. The review process involves exhaustive examination of evidence, including the original crime, behaviour changes, victim impact statements, and expert testimonies. Despite this thorough process, concerns have been raised about the suitability of release for an individual linked to such a severe threat. Chris Phillips, former head of the UK's National Counter Terrorism Security Office, expressed scepticism that Khatib has renounced his extremist views, warning of the catastrophic potential had the Heathrow bomb plot succeeded, which would have rivalled the devastation of 9/11.

Khatib’s involvement went beyond mere support; he was regarded as a "foot soldier" willing to sacrifice himself in the attack and played a critical role in the terrorist cell’s logistics and bomb-making efforts. The cell included other convicted men who received various prison sentences for their roles—Nabeel Hussain was jailed for eight years, and Mohammed Shamin Uddin received sentences related to possessing terror-related materials and firearms. The case underscored the ongoing threat of aviation terrorism, resulting in heightened security measures that disrupted flights and altered travellers' experiences globally.

This case bears similarity to other foiled terror plans targeting Heathrow Airport, including that of Minh Quang Pham, who received a 44-year sentence in the United States for plotting a suicide bombing at the same airport under the direction of al-Qaeda leadership. These episodes collectively highlight the persistent risks facing international aviation and the far-reaching implications for security protocols.

As the parole hearing approaches, the public and security officials await to see whether Khatib, who remains a symbol of one of the UK's most notorious terror plots, will be deemed safe for reintegration into society or continue to be considered a threat warranting prolonged incarceration.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14849731/Wannabe-suicide-bomber-plotted-Heathrow-plane-freed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2006/sep/04/terrorism.uk), [[7]](https://edition.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/europe/08/22/uk.terror/index.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14849731/Wannabe-suicide-bomber-plotted-Heathrow-plane-freed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/life-term-for-airline-bomb-plotter-6802980.html), [[4]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/145325/Immature-jet-bomb-plotter-Adam-Khatib-jailed-for-life), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/6779380/Adam-Khatib-jailed-for-18-years-over-passenger-jet-terror-plot.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14849731/Wannabe-suicide-bomber-plotted-Heathrow-plane-freed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14849731/Wannabe-suicide-bomber-plotted-Heathrow-plane-freed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/life-term-for-airline-bomb-plotter-6802980.html), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/6779380/Adam-Khatib-jailed-for-18-years-over-passenger-jet-terror-plot.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14849731/Wannabe-suicide-bomber-plotted-Heathrow-plane-freed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/145325/Immature-jet-bomb-plotter-Adam-Khatib-jailed-for-life), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/6779380/Adam-Khatib-jailed-for-18-years-over-passenger-jet-terror-plot.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14849731/Wannabe-suicide-bomber-plotted-Heathrow-plane-freed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/member-al-qaeda-arabian-peninsula-sentenced-44-years-prison-terrorism-offenses)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14849731/Wannabe-suicide-bomber-plotted-Heathrow-plane-freed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/life-term-for-airline-bomb-plotter-6802980.html> - Adam Khatib, 23, from Walthamstow, east London, was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 18 years after being convicted of conspiracy to murder. He was found guilty of plotting with Abdulla Ahmed Ali to blow up transatlantic aircraft using liquid explosives. The judge described Khatib as 'immature, attention-seeking and cold-hearted', highlighting the severity of the offence. Ali received a minimum sentence of 40 years for his role in the plot. Three other men were also convicted and sentenced for their involvement.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2006/sep/04/terrorism.uk> - In September 2006, eight men, including Adam Khatib, were remanded in custody in connection with an alleged plot to blow up transatlantic airliners. The suspects, aged between 19 and 28, faced charges of conspiracy to murder and preparing an act of terrorism. The arrests led to significant delays at airports, as authorities disrupted the planned attacks targeting flights from Britain to the United States. The case underscored the heightened security concerns regarding aviation safety.
4. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/145325/Immature-jet-bomb-plotter-Adam-Khatib-jailed-for-life> - Adam Khatib, 23, was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 18 years after being convicted of conspiracy to murder. He was found guilty of plotting with Abdulla Ahmed Ali to blow up transatlantic aircraft using liquid explosives. The judge described Khatib as 'immature, attention-seeking and cold-hearted', highlighting the severity of the offence. Ali received a minimum sentence of 40 years for his role in the plot. Three other men were also convicted and sentenced for their involvement.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/6779380/Adam-Khatib-jailed-for-18-years-over-passenger-jet-terror-plot.html> - Adam Khatib, 23, of Walthamstow, east London, was found guilty of conspiracy to murder after a two-month trial at Woolwich Crown Court. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 18 years. Khatib was part of a group that planned to detonate liquid explosives on transatlantic flights. The plot was foiled by police and MI5 in August 2006. Co-defendant Nabeel Hussain, 25, was jailed for eight years, and Mohammed Shamin Uddin, 39, received a 15-month sentence.
6. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/member-al-qaeda-arabian-peninsula-sentenced-44-years-prison-terrorism-offenses> - Minh Quang Pham, 41, was sentenced to 44 years in prison for providing material support to al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and attempting to commit a suicide bombing at Heathrow International Airport. Pham received military training from AQAP in Yemen and was directed by al-Qaeda leader Anwar Al-Awlaki to detonate explosives in Heathrow's arrivals area. He was arrested in the UK in June 2012 and extradited to the US in February 2015. Pham pleaded guilty to multiple terrorism-related charges.
7. <https://edition.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/europe/08/22/uk.terror/index.html> - In August 2006, eleven suspects, including Adam Khatib, appeared in court in London charged with conspiracy to murder and preparing to commit terrorism. The suspects were remanded in custody until a second court appearance on September 4. The case was part of a broader investigation into an alleged plot to blow up trans-Atlantic airliners, leading to significant security measures and delays at airports. The arrests highlighted the ongoing threat of terrorism targeting international aviation.