

Woman jailed for Facebook terror posts

Press Association

A mother-of-six who took pictures of her toddler holding a toy gun and daydreamed about sending his eight-year-old brother to fight jihad when he grows up has been jailed for five years and three months for promoting terrorism on social media.

Runa Khan revealed her views on Facebook, encouraging Muslim women to urge male relatives to fight and posting a picture of a suicide vest. She also praised an article on how to prepare children for jihad and unwittingly passed a route to Syria to an undercover police officer. Khan appeared to glorify the murder of Lee Rigby, while she repeatedly spoke of her desperation to travel to Syria in messages on WhatsApp.

When she was arrested police found a photo of her two-year-old son with a toy assault rifle and a jihadi book on her phone, as well as images of her and her older children holding a sword, Kingston crown court heard.

The 35-year-old, from Luton, admitted four charges of disseminating terrorist

publications between July and September 2013. In one Facebook post Khan described how when she was getting her son ready to go outside to play, she pictured handing him a rifle in the future and sending him out to "play the big boy's game".

Sentencing Khan, Judge Peter Birts QC described her as an avowed fundamentalist Islamist holding radical and extreme

Runa Khan used Facebook to encourage Muslim women to urge male relatives to fight and posted a picture of a suicide vest



beliefs. He said: "I sentence you not for your beliefs, abhorrent though they are to all civilised people, but for your actions in disseminating terrorist material with the clear intention of radicalising others."

Referring to her online activities, he said: "Your purpose was to encourage and promote your particular brand of

violent fundamentalism." Between April and October last year Khan exchanged messages on WhatsApp with Mohammed Nahin Ahmed, who was jailed after he admitted fighting in Syria.

Khan used a Facebook account in the name of Khawla Khattab but her activities on the site were revealed after she passed the details of a route to Syria sent to her by Ahmed to an undercover officer.

Jo Sidhu QC said in mitigation that Khan was obsessed with the situation in Syria but did not advocate a global jihad. He said: "We are dealing with someone whose thinking is deeply immature."

In an interview with the BBC's Newsnight Khan said: "I was posting up my beliefs." Asked if there was anything she regretted, she said: "We've moved on."

"If we could we wouldn't live in Britain. My passport has been taken away from me, Britain is the last place I would want to live in and I'm sure that you know the majority of people with my mindset are actually behind bars because they don't want to stay in Britain."

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