TERRORISM Volume 2

345.13 Selling or distributing terrorist material

R Khan 2015 EWCA Crim 1341, 2 Cr App R (S) 76 (p 510) D pleaded to four charges of disseminating terrorist publications. D, who held extreme Islamist views, communicated with T, who was going to Syria to fight. T sent D his route and D expressed a wish to join the conflict. D was contacted by an undercover officer, U, who posed as a Jihad fighter. U was able to view D's texts and posted images. There was an article claiming to be a blueprint for raising Mujahid children. D's phone revealed pictures of her youngest son (then aged 2) holding a toy assault rifle, her nine-year-old and teenaged son with a sword each and pictures of T holding a handgun. There were pictures of D with a sword. Another picture showed a small child with an ammunition belt and a caption saying, "His grandfather became a jahid so now he wants to be a mujahid." Other pictures showed young children with what appeared to be real firearms and one child with a grenade. D was aged 35 with six children under 18. She was in poor health. The Judge started at 7 years (the maximum) and with plea gave 5 years 3 months. He also said that the promotion of terrorism using the Internet was of national concern. On appeal, the defence said the material was restricted to 241 Facebook friends and the pictures came from the Internet, Further, no one had actively been encouraged to be involved with terrorist activity. Held. We accept the mitigation and the positive elements in her character. However five of her children live with D's mother and D had talked about leaving to fight in Syria. These offences are serious because of her intentions to be involved in a particular conflict and her deep commitment to the radicalisation of children, including very young children, into becoming violent jihadist activists. Giving the maximum sentence must be seen in the light of the four offences which could have been made consecutive. Appeal dismissed.