

POLITICS

ISIS 'Beatles' member pleads guilty, faces life in prison

Alexanda Kotey, 37, entered guilty pleas on eight counts

By **Thomas Barrabi**, **Jake Gibson** · **Fox News**

Published September 2, 2021 9:04pm EDT



2 alleged ISIS 'Beatles' charged in the death of US hostages

ISIS 'Beatles' members accused of detaining, torturing and helping to kill foreign hostages, including four Americans; Greg Palkot reports from London.

Alexanda Kotey, a member of the British [ISIS terrorist cell](#) known as the "Beatles," pleaded guilty in a Virginia federal court on Thursday to various charges related to his role in the [kidnapping](#) and murder of four Americans and other foreign nationals in Syria.

Kotey, 37, entered guilty pleas on eight counts, including conspiracy to commit hostage-taking resulting in the death of those involved. Several of the charges carry a mandatory sentence of life in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for March 4, 2022.

Federal prosecutors said Kotey "participated in the seizure, detention, and hostage negotiations" involving the four Americans – journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff and aid workers Peter Kassig and Kayla Mueller.

Kotey and co-defendant El Shafee Elsheikh were captured by Syrian forces and transported to the U.S. last October. Elsheikh's charges are pending.

Under the plea agreement, Kotey will serve 15 years in U.S. federal prison and then will be transferred to the United Kingdom to stand trial for his offenses against British citizens. If he is not sentenced to life there, he would be transferred back to the U.S. after serving his sentence in

POST-WITHDRAWAL AFGHANISTAN IS 'MUCH WORSE' THAN IRAQ POWER VACUUM THAT SPAWNED ISIS, GENERAL SAYS



Alexanda Amon Kotey, blue shirt, is seen with co-defendant El Shafee Elsheikh in a 2020 photo. The inset shows the four Americans who were abducted and murdered: Clockwise from upper left are Peter Kassig, Kayla Mueller, Steven Sotloff and James Foley.

Kotey must also meet with the families of the murder victims.

sentencing.

Mr. Kotey was wearing a green prison jumpsuit and had a full beard. He assured Judge Ellis that he had been educated in Britain and did not need an Arabic translator.

Diane Foley, the mother of James Foley, called on President Biden to "prioritize" the release of many American hostages around the world.

"This case has always been focused on the victims and their families," said Raj Parekh, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. "Their resilience, courage, and perseverance have ensured that terror will never have the last word.

"The justice, fairness, and humanity that this defendant received in the United States stand in stark contrast to the cruelty, inhumanity, and indiscriminate violence touted by the terrorist organization he espoused. Today, through the voices and lives of the victims, Justice spoke, and it is those words that will resonate through history," he added.

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Kotey was one of four ISIS militants behind the kidnapping and murders of Westerners, some of which were recorded and released in grisly propaganda videos. A third group member was prosecuted in Turkey, while the fourth, a militant known as "Jihadi John," who murdered Foley, was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Syria.

During a lengthy hearing, Kotey admitted to his involvement in the many crimes, including "in operations to detain non-Muslims." He also admitted, at a federal judge's prodding, that he knew these kidnappings would likely result in the mistreatment or deaths of the hostages.

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- J jawbreaker** ⋮

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When these two are behind bars, who is to say they could start a recruiting process with other inmates. Recruiting does take place in our prisons. I hope these institutions understand and have a process to curb recruiting process.

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- L lloyder722** ⋮

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I have one.

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- ⚡ FromTheEast** ⋮

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I wish more states had the death penalty.

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He's trying to set himself up as a bargaining chip for when negotiations begin for the return of Americans left behind in Afghanistan by Joe Biden.

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1pingyes2pingsno ...

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If Barry was still President these killers would have been released already.

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chile10001488 ...

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"...Under the plea agreement, Kotey will serve 15 years in U.S. federal prison and then will be transferred to the United Kingdom to stand trial for his offenses against British citizens..."

I am so sick of our federal courts allowing plea deals. Four lives were lost, several of the charges rated a ...**See more**

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yani453 ...

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AND WHO KNOWS, BIDEN MAY GET PRESSURE FROM AOC TO PARDON HIM.

DON'T COUNT THAT OUT!

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mypets ...

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Read the rest. Everyone wants a piece of this guy. *(Edited)*

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N Notempathetic ...

was a joint effort with us and the UK.

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Culturewarrior11Bravo741 ...

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When the family members told Biden to do something about US hostages held around the world, he replied "I talk to the president about it."

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c cinortyek589 ...

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Why are these terrorists still breathing?

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w whereishunter ...

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Pat - tried to trick us but the puzzles the same....

13% er's are not big Beatle fans so it was a trick question

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M Make-Crime-Illegal-Again ...

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15 years seems to be a little lenient. Second Degree Murder and Felony Murder usually get 25 to life, depending on the state.

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milretired2 ...

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If not sentenced to life in the U.K.; instead of flying him back to the U.S., drop him off on a deserted island away from all shipping lanes. Parachute optional.

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