

# Murdered Briton's daughter to confront Isis 'Beatle'

## Dipesh Gadher

Home Affairs Correspondent

Bethany Haines was a teenager when her father, David, a British aid worker, was beheaded in Syria by the Isis kidnap gang known as the Beatles.

Today, more than 7½ years later, she will kiss her own son, Aiden, 6, goodbye in Scotland and fly to America to face one of her father's alleged tormentors.

Haines, 24, will ask El Shafee Elsheikh "to do the right thing" and reveal where the remains of her father and other western hostages lie. "Don't do it for me," she will tell him. "Do it for my son, so that he can finally say goodbye to his grandad."

Elsheikh, 33, of Shepherd's Bush, west London, will go on trial on Tuesday, on eight charges linked to the kidnapping and murder of at least 27 hostages, including four Americans and two Britons. The trial in Alexandria, Virginia, is expected to cast fresh light on how Elsheikh and three other Londoners, including Mohammed Emwazi, the masked killer known as Jihadi John, were repeatedly able to sidestep British authorities to become the highest-profile terrorist suspects in the world. Haines will be in court every day of the proceedings, which are scheduled to last up to four weeks, and will read out a victim impact statement if Elsheikh is convicted. "I've prepared for this for years," she said. "I want to be able to see him at all times; to see his facial expressions."

She doubts Elsheikh, who denies the charges, will show

remorse. "He thinks he's above this all. It's all beneath him. He even smirked at a witness at an earlier hearing."

Her father, David, 44, a former RAF worker and security expert from Perth, was murdered in September 2014 when Haines was 17.

Other victims of the gang, who filmed their executions, included Alan Henning, 47, a taxi driver from Greater Manchester who was carrying out humanitarian work in Syria; and the Americans James Foley, 40, Steven Sotloff, 31, and Peter Kassig, 26.

A fourth US victim, aid worker Kayla Mueller, 26, was also kidnapped and offered as a sex slave to the Isis leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Emwazi, 27, a Westminster University graduate, was killed by a US drone strike in Syria in 2015. Elsheikh and another gang member, Alexandra Kotev, 38, were captured in the Middle East at the start of 2018 before being transferred to America for trial.

Kotev, a former Queen's Park Rangers FC fan, has pleaded guilty and is due to be sentenced at the end of April, when Henning's daughter is expected to attend court in Virginia. The fourth gang member, Aine Davis, 37, was jailed in Turkey in 2017 for terrorism offences.

US prosecutors have amassed tens of thousands of pages of evidence for Elsheikh's trial, including key material shared by Scotland Yard in return for a pledge that Elsheikh and Kotev will not face the death penalty.

In a move that could prove highly embarrassing to the

UK government, Emwazi's record on the Police National Computer will be presented as evidence, as well as excerpts of an interview with him in police custody.

It is unclear when this recording took place, but it

was previously known that Emwazi came onto the radar of MI5 in 2009 when he was intercepted trying to enter Tanzania, where he was suspected of seeking terrorist training. He was also questioned in 2010 and 2012

as he sought to board flights from London to Kuwait.

"They totally could have been stopped," said Haines. "What's the point of having a [terrorism watch] list if you are never going to act on it?" @dipeshgadher

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