
Three Syrian refugees are **CLEARED** of sexually assaulting two 14-year-old schoolgirls in a park after their defence called for case to be thrown out because of evidence 'inconsistencies'

- Omar Badreddin, Mohammed Alfrouh and Mohammad Allakkoud cleared
- All three Syrians were accused of sexual assault in Leazes Park, Newcastle
- Newcastle Crown Court heard the interviews were translated incorrectly
- Trio burst into tears after the verdicts of not guilty were read out in court

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PUBLISHED: 15:42, 13 October 2016 | **UPDATED:** 22:13, 13 October 2016

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Three Syrian refugees who fled to the UK to escape civil war have been cleared of sexually assaulting two schoolgirls in a park.

Omar Badreddin, 18, Mohammed Alfrouh, 20, and Mohammad Allakkoud, 18, were alleged to have sexually assaulted the girls, both 14, in Leazes Park.

The defendants, in a large group of Syrians picnicking in the park, had met the girls on May 9, and there was an agreement to see them the next day, the court heard.

One girl was said to have typed her number in Mr Badreddin's phone before allegedly leading him off for a kiss. He insisted he did not know she was 14.



Mohammad Allakkoud (left) and Mohammed Hamdan Alfrouh (right) pictured outside Newcastle Crown Court

During the two-week trial defence barristers applied for the case to be thrown out, it can now be reported.

They said that there were inconsistencies in the complainants' evidence to police, to the court and in cross-examination.

One of the girls was a 'proven liar', the defence teams claimed, who had fabricated serious allegations about her home life prior to the sex assault claims.

The case was also delayed by one and a half days while all the defendants' interviews with police were checked and re-translated.

One serious mistake arose when Mr Alfrouh described seeing Mr Badreddin and the girl kissing behind the pavilion.

In his police interview he was translated as saying he saw Mr Badreddin's penis and her vagina touching.



Omar Marwan Badreddin (left) arrived in the UK last November under the government's resettlement programme

But in front of the jury Mr Alfrouh insisted he did not say that, and when the tape was checked, an alternative translation was provided for the jury.

He was also translated as telling police he 'tried to' kiss the girl who was with Mr Badreddin, but this was changed to 'wanted to' kiss her and that he stopped himself.

Later the judge said the cause of the delays was that the interviews needed to be re-interpreted due to errors - 'some of them minor, some of them major'.

As the forewoman returned the not guilty verdicts on the three, the young defendants burst into tears.

After they left the dock, they wept and hugged each other and family members in the corridor outside.

One of the men - Mr Badreddin - is originally from Damascus but fled to Jordan as the country was gripped by civil war.



One of the men, Mr Badreddin (left), is originally from Damascus but fled to Jordan as the country was gripped by civil war

He arrived in the UK last November under the government's resettlement programme.

At the height of the crisis, the Prime Minister announced plans to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees in Britain at a cost of more than half a billion pounds.

Married Mohammed Alfrouh, 20, was cleared of three counts of sexual assault.

He was accused of kissing one girl in the park on consecutive nights, and of also molesting the girl Mr Badreddin was accused of kissing behind a pavilion.

Mohammed Allakkoud, 18, whose father died in Syria and who was living in Newcastle with his extended family, was accused by the girl of holding her mouth and nose while the others attacked her. He was cleared of a single charge of sexual assault.

Outside court a spokesman for the defendants said: 'They came from Syria to live in peace. They believe the judge is fair. This is a free country, it is not like Syria.'

Chief Inspector Steve Ammari added: 'We respect the decision of the court and we thank the complainants in this case for their support and help throughout.'



Omar Badreddin, 18, Mohammed Alfrouh, 20, and Mohammad Allakkoud, 18, were alleged to have sexually assaulted the girls, both 14, in Leazes Park (shown)

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700 people are not keen on justice in this country, apparently...

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[optimist68](#), Suffolk, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

Just watched this family on the news. Those saying they should stay and fight for their country - put yourself in their shoes - they didn't stand a chance. They were not army personnel. They qualified as refugees and a lot of the trouble was started by the West. I'm sorry that this family started life in the country like this. I hope they are relocated to a nicer area. I notice the supportive comments get many red arrows - never mind, go for it. I wish this family well and I hope they can move forward towards a better life here.

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[Fifty Five](#), Stirling, United Kingdom, 1 year ago

There was outrage when some people called for immigrants to have a basic level of English before joining UK society. Presumably, translators had to be used when the original statements were given to police, again when the accused met with their lawyers and yet again in court, if that's where the various interpretations were questioned. It's not surprising that the case collapsed, I can see this defence being used regularly in similar circumstances in future. And meanwhile, what a nice little earner for the translators. Our local hospital regularly pays £50 -£60 from NHS budgets for translation services to the friends of patients who claim not to speak English when they come to give birth. In several cases, a few months later the same two arrive, but this time the roles are

reversed - the 'translator' who's now in labour can't speak English, and her old friend can - and isn't slow to ask for her fee for the services. Shocking!

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	and how many other cases have been dismissed because of faulty translations? Need to make it compulsory that those who wish to stay here must learn the language of this country. This would not only help with future problems like this would also ensure millions are not spent on translators that might offer up incorrect translations in cases!		
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