



'I feel scared'

Disillusioned, Kadiza tried to flee IS, but failed

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"I don't have a good feeling, I feel scared." Those were Kadiza Sultana's words to her sister as she plotted her escape from IS in Syria.

But the 17-year-old never managed to leave the terrorist group's territory, being killed in a suspected Russian air strike in May.

Her family said she quickly became disillusioned with life as a jihadi bride in the so-called Islamic State and told them she wanted to get out.

They discussed plans to get a taxi and be smuggled out of IS' de-facto capital of Raqqa and into Turkey but as the border closed and restrictions increased, Kadiza's hopes dwindled.

The family's lawyer, Tasnime Akunjee, said Kadiza became too frightened to attempt leaving IS after another young jihadi bride was murdered.

Samra Kesinovic, a 17-year-old Austrian, became a poster girl for the terrorist group after joining them in 2014 but was reportedly beaten to death when she was caught trying to escape last year.

Kadiza, a Bangladeshi-origin UK citizen, was just 16 when she travelled to Syria in 2015 with two friends from Bethnal Green Academy in London, Shamima Begum and Amira Abase.

They were believed to have been married off to IS fighters almost immediately, but Kadiza's husband – an American national of Somali origin – was killed.

A former IS fighter who grew up in London told The Independent he met several foreign recruits who were desperate to escape as all-out assault on Raqqa. "Many have tried (to flee) but they are either dead or in jail waiting for executions", he said.