



This is the article that the Daily Mail published on its website, claiming that the Amanda Knox appeal had failed and that she and Raffaele Sollecito were to be placed on suicide watch in prison. This is how the mainstream media in Britain elects to mislead with quotes and references that are pure invention, intentional deceit.

The article has now been withdrawn from the Daily Mail website.

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Guilty: Amanda Knox looks stunned as appeal against murder conviction is rejected

By [Nick Pisa](#)

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Amanda Knox looked stunned this evening after she dramatically lost her prison appeal against her murder conviction.

Knox, 24, and her family had high hopes that she would be freed and allowed to return home after spending the last four years behind bars for the killing of Meredith Kercher in Perugia, Italy, in 2007.

In December 2009 she had been sentenced to 26 years and last night the judge and jury agreed with prosecutors that she should remain in prison as they accepted that she had brutally murdered student Meredith.



Guilty: Amanda Knox, pictured arriving at a hearing in Perugia this morning, had her appeal against conviction for the murder of British student Meredith Kercher rejected this evening



Tears: Amanda Knox weeps in court earlier today. She will now return to prison to continue her 26-year sentence for the murder



Media circus: Satellite TV vans parked outside the court in Perugia. The case has generated massive public attention

KNOX'S FINAL PLEA FOR FREEDOM

Earlier today a tearful Amanda Knox made a dramatic 10-minute final plea for her freedom to the judge and jury in the court in Perugia.

The 24-year-old, speaking in Italian, said: 'I am the same person I was four years ago, the same person, the only thing that distinguishes me from four years ago is the four years that I have suffered.

'In four years I have lost a friend in a brutal and unexplained way. My faith in the police has been betrayed.

'I have had to face accusations, injustice and suggestions without foundation and I am paying with my life for something that I did not do.

'I am not what they say I am. I am not perverse, violent, disrespectful towards life, people, these things do not apply to me and I have not done the things that have been suggested.

'I did not kill, I did not rape, I did not steal. I was not there. I was not present at this crime.

'I had never faced such tragedy, suffering, I didn't know how to tackle it, how to interpret it.

'A person who I was sharing my life with, who had the bedroom next to me, she was killed in our house and if I was there that night I could have been killed.

'Meredith was killed and I have always wanted justice for her. I am not fleeing from the truth and have never fled. I insist on the truth. I insist after four desperate years for our innocence because it is true. It deserves to be recognised.

'I want to go home. I want to return to my life, I don't want to be punished and deprived of my life, future for something I have not done because I am innocent, Raffaele is also innocent.

'We deserve our freedom. We have never done anything not to deserve it.'

The 21-year-old was found semi naked in a pool of blood with her throat slashed in her bedroom of the house she shared with American Knox and two Italian women.

Judge Claudio Pratillo Hellman also ruled that Raffaele Sollecito, 27, Knox's former boyfriend, should remain in jail and confirmed the original 25-year sentence on the computer studies graduate.

As Knox realized the enormity of what judge Hellman was saying she sank into her chair sobbing uncontrollably while her family and friends hugged each other in tears.

A few feet away Meredith's mother Arline, her sister Stephanie and brother Lyle, who had flown in especially for the verdict remained expressionless, staring straight ahead, glancing over just once at the distraught Knox family.

Prosecutors were delighted with the verdict and said that 'justice has been done' although they said on a 'human factor it was sad two young people would be spending years in jail'.

Both Knox and Sollecito – who have always denied any involvement in the brutal murder - said they would take the case to the third and final level of appeal at the Supreme Court in Rome where it will probably be heard late next year.

The ten-month appeal hearing had heard from several witnesses who had given evidence in the first trial but most importantly from two independent court appointed DNA experts.

Professors Carla Vecchiotti and Stefano Conti had been asked to evaluate how the original DNA investigation had been carried out by the forensic police and highlighted several howling errors.

Key to the case had been a 12ins kitchen knife found at Sollecito's apartment and on which was said to be DNA from Knox on the handle and that of Meredith on the blade.

But they had insisted the genetic evidence from Knox was so small it should not be used as conclusive proof against her – although they did admit it was her DNA on the handle.





Court drama: Sollecito and Knox earlier made their final pleas against their convictions for the murder of Meredith Kercher



Knox's parents Curt and Edda, pictured at an earlier hearing, were devastated after the verdict was read out in court



Grief: Stephanie Kercher, pictured with mother Arline at a press conference this afternoon, said the family were struggling to keep sister Meredith's memory alive during the 10-month appeal

They also said that contamination was highly likely after a bra clasp was tested 46 days after it had been missed by police in the original sweep of Meredith's bedroom.



Victim: Meredith, 21, was found semi-naked with her throat slashed in a bedroom in the house she shared with Knox and two other women

The original trial and appeal had heard that Sollecito's DNA was found on it but because it had been left lying around for six weeks and it had been picked up by officers wearing dirty gloves it was probably 'flawed evidence'.

Prosecutors argued that they had no idea of what they were talking about and labelled them inexperienced and amateur and judge Hellman and the jury of five women and one man believed them.

Following the verdict Knox and Sollecito were taken out of court escorted by prison guards and into a waiting van which took her back to her cell at Capanne jail near Perugia and him to Terni jail, 60 miles away.

Both will be put on a suicide watch for the next few days as psychological assessments are made on each of them but this is usual practice for long term prisoners.

The decision still leaves several questions unanswered and there are serious fears that justice has not been done as many observers believe the evidence is just not beyond all reasonable doubt.

The decision meant that the court rejected the experts opinion that DNA on the knife and bra should not have been considered as evidence in the trial and it also excepted several highly dubious witness testimonies as fact.



Media scum: Journalists, photographers and camera crews flooded the court room during the appeal sessions earlier today ahead of the verdict



Hopes: Supporters of Amanda Knox hold an overnight vigil on the eve of the appeal verdict



High profile: A poster announces the day of the appeal verdict



Raffaele Sollecito, Knox's former boyfriend, also had his conviction for the killing upheld

Among these was tramp Antonio Curatolo – who has been a 'key witness' in two other murder cases in Perugia and who insisted he had seen Knox and Sollecito near the house the night of the murder.

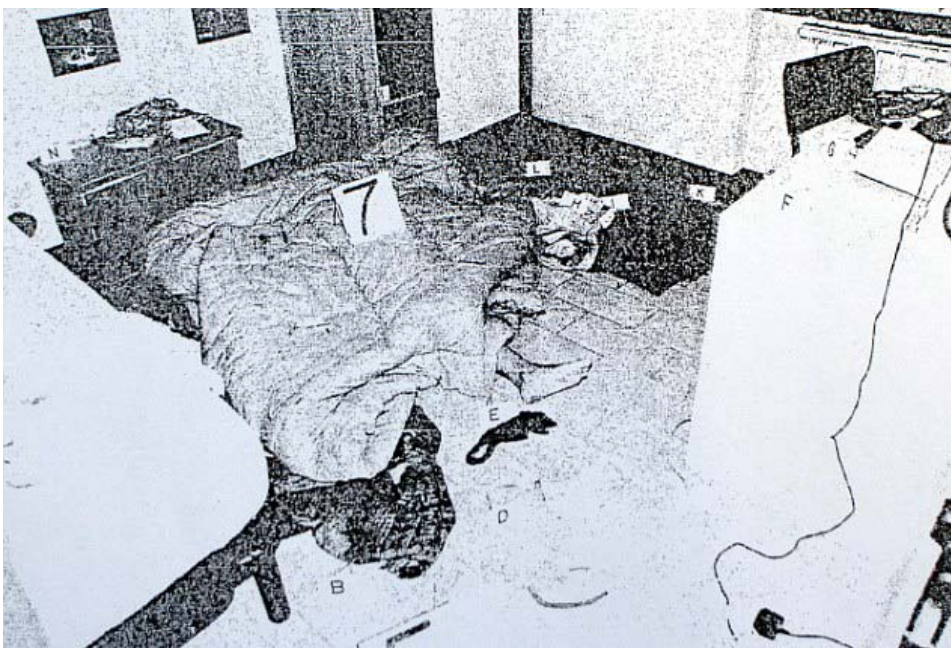
But in court he was far from convincing and it also emerged he was a regular heroin user and he stumbled over many basic points in his evidence – insisting he knew it was the night of the murder as he had 'seen youngsters queuing for nightclub buses' at the same time.

However bus staff and disco managers all testified that no transport or venues were operating the night Curatolo claimed to have seen them as it was a bank holiday in Italy.

The court also accepted as fact the statement of former supermarket boss Marco Quintavalle who was questioned by police in the days after the murder as his business is next door to Sollecito's apartment.

He initially had told them that he had not seen either Knox or Sollecito but then when contacted by a local newspaper six months later he changed his story and said she had been there buying bleach and he remembered her 'blue eyes'.

He stood by his claims in court but another assistant Marina Chiriborga said she was also working that day and had not seen them in the Conad supermarket at all.



Evidence: DNA found at the scene was called into question during the hearing



Brutal killing: A bedroom in the home Meredith shared with Knox in Perugia. Her blood-soaked body was found on the floor in her own room

Other crucial elements include Knox's 'confession' in which she admitted being at the house the night of the murder but that came after 14 hours of questioning and without a proper translator or lawyer present.

There are also question marks over the DNA evidence in the bathroom concerning bloodspots found at the scene and which are said to contain mixture of both Knox and Meredith's genetic material.

However Knox's lawyers argued that this evidence was inadmissible as the blood could not be dated and as she lived at the house it was obvious her DNA would be there.

KEY DATES IN THE CONVICTION OF AMANDA KNOX

Nov 2, 2007: Body of Meredith Kercher is found in Perugia apartment. Investigators say she was killed the night before.

Nov 6, 2007: Knox is arrested with then-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito, and Diya 'Patrick' Lumumba, Congolese owner of pub where Knox occasionally worked.

Nov 20, 2007: Lumumba, implicated by Knox statements to police, is released from jail for lack of evidence.

Dec 6, 2007: Ivory Coast national Rudy Hermann Guede is extradited from Germany, where he was arrested, and jailed upon arrival in Italy.

Dec 14, 2007: Meredith is laid to rest after funeral in London.

Oct 28, 2008: Judge indicts Knox and Sollecito on murder and sexual assault charges. Guede, who was granted a fast-track trial, is convicted of murder and sexual assault and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Jan 16, 2009: Trial of Knox and Sollecito opens in Perugia.

Jun 12, 2009: Knox takes stand; tells court she was shocked by Meredith's death, offers alibi and says police beat her into making false statements.

Dec 4, 2009: Court finds Knox guilty of murder and sexual assault; sentences her to 26 years in prison. Sollecito is convicted of same charges and sentenced to 25 years.

Dec 22, 2009: Appeals court upholds Guede conviction and cuts sentence to 16 years.

Nov 8, 2010: Judge orders Knox to stand trial on slander charges for claiming police beating.

Nov 24, 2010: Appeals trial for Knox and Sollecito opens in Perugia.

Dec 16, 2010: Italy's highest criminal court upholds Guede's conviction and 16-year prison sentence.

June 29, 2011: Independent forensic report ordered by appeals court finds much of the DNA evidence used to convict Knox and Sollecito is unreliable.

October 3, 2011: Knox and Sollecito's appeal is rejected and they are sent back to prison.