

# Terrorist plotted driverless car Christmas bomb attack

BY LUCY THORNTON

AN ISIS-supporting asylum seeker has been convicted of planning to massacre Christmas market shoppers using a driverless car loaded with explosives.

Farhad Salah, 24, who came to the UK in 2014, wanted to use a vehicle controlled by a laptop so 'none of our brothers need to get inside'.

Two northern cities had been scouted out as targets, Sheffield crown court heard. Iraqi-Kurd convicted Farhad Salah

Salah, of Sheffield's Fatima Community Centre, was found guilty of preparing to commit acts of terrorism. Co-defendant Andy Star, 32, was cleared of the charge.

He said gunpowder at his flat, over his Mermaid Fish Bar, Chesterfield, was connected to his love of fireworks.

Det Chief Supt Martin Snowden said Salah "posed a very real risk to the safety of the public".

It was the second time both had been tried after jurors failed to reach a verdict in October.



## OUR DAILY PUB QUIZ

1 The Circuit Gilles Villeneuve Formula 1 track in which city?

2 Zymology is concerned with the study of fermentation. True or false?

3 Port Moresby is the capital of which country?

4 Live Aid was staged at Wembley and which US stadium?

5 Too loyal actor is an anagram of which make and model of Japanese car?

ANSWERS: PAGE 44

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# BID TO SAVE A SPECIES WITH

## EXCLUSIVE

BY TOM PARRY  
Special Correspondent in Nanyuki, Kenya

As I tentatively approach the last two northern white rhinos on the planet, I fear these two-ton hulks might turn towards me and charge.

But the placid giants do not even look up as they graze contentedly here in the Kenyan highlands.

Encased in a thick silvery hide that shimmers like armour in the sunlight, Najin, 30, and her daughter Fatu, 19, are blissfully unaware of the heavy burden they bear as the only survivors of a sub-species brought to the brink of extinction by human beings.

Soon, leading veterinary scientists will visit them at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in the hope of carrying out an extraordinary IVF operation.

If it is successful, northern white rhinos, which once roamed Uganda, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, should be saved.

These gentle herbivores symbolise a tragedy caused by human greed and corruption.

A breakthrough at Chorzow Zoo in Poland last month brought the possibility that the process that has helped many human couples to conceive might also save the northern white.

Scientists from the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin revealed they had successfully transferred a test tube rhino embryo back into a female whose eggs were fertilised in vitro.

They implanted an embryo, fertilised by sperm from a male southern white rhino from a zoo in Austria, into the womb of Hope, an 18-year-old female southern white.

If Hope's pregnancy reaches a full term - 17 months for a rhino - the team intend to repeat the process with eggs harvested from Najin and Fatu.

The eggs will be fertilised with sperm taken from one of the last north white rhinos here at Ol Pejeta, four hours north of Kenya's capital Nairobi.

As neither Najin or Fatu can bear children, the embryos will be implanted into a southern white surrogate mother.

Although the southern and northern whites are closely related, there are crucial genetic differences.

Southern white numbers have stabilised in the wild.

"This is the last chance to save the northern white," says keeper Zacharia Mutai, who has been at Ol Pejeta for 15 years.

"There are a lot of challenges but it has worked before with a Sumatran rhinoceros at a zoo in Miami.

"Now with only the two northern whites remaining the situation is very serious so we have to try everything.

"If it works, the southern white surrogate will give birth to a pure northern white, so all of this effort will have been worthwhile."

Professor Thomas Hildebrandt, leading the IVF team in Europe, said: "The early signs are promising."

The prospect of saving the northern



GENTLY NOW Tom with Fatu

HERE TO HELP YOU Zacharia Mutai and his rhinos

Pictures: PHIL COBURN



EAT OF THE DAY Fatu and Najin graze in the huge enclosure



THE LAST MALE Memorial to Sudan, pictured below



SUDAN



NAJIN

FATU

# RHINOSOS



KEEPER Zacharia chatting with Tom

“With only two remaining the situation is very serious. We have to try everything”

ZACHARIA MUTAI, KEEPER AT OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

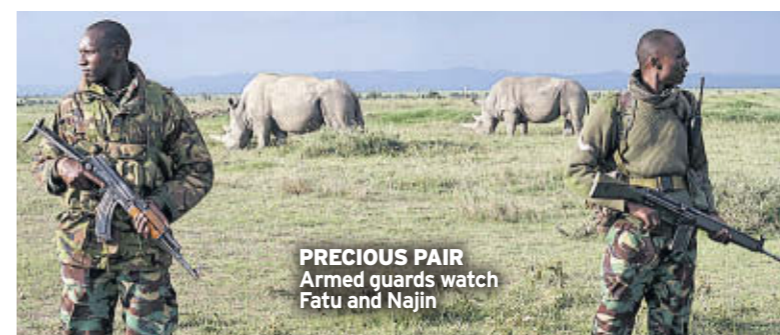
white against vast odds means Najin and Fatu are monitored like no other animals on earth.

They are watched around the clock by armed guards stationed in watchtowers looking over the enclosure on the Laikipia plains.

Devastated by poaching in some of Africa's most conflict-riven nations, there have been no sightings of this rhino in the wild since 2006. Poachers reduced northern white numbers from 500 to 15 in the 1970s and 80s.

Najin and Fatu were born in a zoo in Europe, but they, along with two males, were brought to Ol Pejeta when it became clear there were no more of them in their natural habitat. Until very recently, there were faint hopes that a last remaining male, named Sudan, might mate with Fatu. Sadly, the match never happened, and all hopes were extinguished when Sudan died in March last year.

Najin and Fatu snort as they pad



PRECIOUS PAIR Armed guards watch Fatu and Najin

slowly around their huge enclosure. When their appetite is sated they doze in the dust, rubbing themselves in the dirt to keep cool.

They are accompanied by a southern white, introduced to them so they could re-learn how to behave as wild rhinos do. They have 600 acres to roam, in a protected area full of elephants, zebra and giraffes.

Zacharia tells me I can stroke the animals while they eat. I'm wary at

first, but neither animal even flinches from human touch. "From 8am until 4pm they are resting," Zacharia explains. "They are very calm. They only charge when they feel nervous."

It is precisely because of the rhinos' peaceful nature that cruel humans have been able to take advantage. A short drive from the northern whites' enclosure are memorials to rhinos killed by poachers. Their horns

are sold to buyers in the Far East. The plaques on stone cairns tell of animals being shot by poisoned arrows at night so their horns, made of keratin, the same substance as human fingernails, can be hacked off.

One plaque dedicated to a female black rhino named Ishrini says: "Killed by poisoned arrows. The security team found her writhing in pain with the horns already chopped off. She was 12 months pregnant."

Last year the Daily Mirror accompanied the World Wildlife Fund on a rhino translocation in Kenya intended to re-stock an area where the population had been slashed.

Tragically the rhinos were accidentally poisoned by salty water from a new borehole.

The distressing episode proved just how challenging it is for conservationists to win the battle against the poachers.

at Chorzow Zoo, Prof Hildebrandt cautioned that while ultrasound tests show the embryo transferred has grown, it remains to be seen whether it will implant in the mother's uterine lining and result in a pregnancy.

He and the other scientists from the Leibniz Institute are part of BioRescue, an international team trying to use IVF to save the northern white.

BioRescue is waiting for permission from Kenya to harvest the eggs from Najin and Fatu. Germany supports the project and the UK is funding schemes to tackle the illegal wildlife trade.

What all sides agree on is that if southern white and black rhinos are not to go the way of the northern white, demand for the animals' horn in the Far East has to be end.

Horn, used for medicine, is wrongly thought to be an aphrodisiac and is seen as a status symbol in China.

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