

SE World
HD **Haneef's cousin makes guilty plea**

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LP A COUSIN of former terror suspect **Mohamed Haneef** pleaded guilty last night in a British court to withholding information from police about last year's failed suicide car bombing at Glasgow airport.

Sabeel Ahmed, 26, was sentenced to 18 months jail at the Central Criminal Court in London, but with time served on remand was immediately released and will next week be deported home to Bangalore, India.

TD Judge David Calvert-Smith told the court Sabeel's peripheral involvement in his brother's terror attempt did not mean he was an extremist. "I accept that so far as you personally were concerned there is no sign of your being an extremist or party to extremist views," Justice Calvert-Smith said in court.

But Ahmed had agreed to tell police his brother's cover story -- that he was working in Iceland -- instead of telling the truth.

Ahmed was arrested on June 30 after two cars containing petrol, gas cylinders and detonators were found in London and a burning Jeep Cherokee was driven by his brother Kafael into Glasgow airport terminal.

Dr **Haneef**, who is now in Bangalore, was charged in Brisbane last July with providing assistance to terrorism for having given Ahmed, his second cousin, a mobile phone SIM card a year before the attempted bombings.

The case against Dr **Haneef** collapsed after claims that police had presented inaccurate information to a Queensland magistrate, including the allegation that the SIM card with unused credits he had given his cousin had been found in the Jeep Cherokee. He was arrested near Liverpool's Lime Street station. Ahmed was the third person charged in the investigation. Two other men face trial later this year charged with conspiracy to cause explosions.

Prosecutor Jonathan Laidlaw told the court yesterday that on June 30, Kafael Ahmed sent his brother a text message directing him to an online email account containing several documents.

Mr Laidlaw said these included instructions to Sabeel on how to frustrate the police and his brother's Islamic will. Kafael later died of burns sustained in the attack. "The significant information falls into a number of different categories -- principally, it relates to the identities of those likely to be involved in the bombing," he said.

"At that time, when he was passed the information, the defendant could not have known, of course, conclusively whether all those involved had been detained by the authorities or whether they were free to continue with their terrorist activity."

Last night's hearing in London followed the return of federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland from Britain, where authorities had raised concerns that the Clarke inquiry into the **Haneef** affair could compromise continuing operations. Mr McClelland assured Scotland Yard the investigation "will stop at the border".

"There had been communication from the British that they were concerned that the inquiry did not prejudice the criminal investigation," Mr McClelland told The Weekend Australian.

The Rudd Government called the inquiry, headed by former NSW Supreme Court Judge John Clarke QC, into the arrest and detention of Dr **Haneef**. Mr Clarke is due to present his report in September.

Mr McClelland said he had assured Scotland Yard and British prosecutors that the Clarke inquiry would not traverse matters that were the subject of criminal proceedings in Britain.

Mr McClelland said the inquiry would still be able to assess the conduct of the agencies involved in the **Haneef** affair.

After he was granted bail, Dr **Haneef's** visa was cancelled by then-immigration minister Kevin Andrews, who justified his decision on the basis of secret information supplied to him by the federal police. That information will be examined by Mr Clarke.

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