

## Manchester Arena bomb plotter faces charges over prison attack



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Hashem Abedi, the brother of the man responsible for the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing, has been charged with attempting to murder three prison officers and assaulting a fourth during an incident at HMP Frankland in County Durham.

The 28-year-old, who is serving a minimum term of 55 years for his role in planning the suicide bombing, is accused of carrying out the attack on 11 April while held in a high-security separation

unit. He also faces a charge of unauthorised possession of a knife.

Prosecutors are pursuing the case under the terrorism protocol, alleging that the offences were motivated by extremist ideology. Abedi is scheduled to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 18 September.

According to authorities, three prison officers sustained serious injuries and required hospital treatment following the incident, while a fourth officer suffered less severe harm. Reports at the time indicated the use of improvised weapons, including makeshift knives and cooking oil.

Following the attack, Abedi was transferred to another facility. Counter Terrorism Policing North East confirmed the charges after what they described as a thorough investigation carried out with Durham Constabulary and prison authorities.

The Ministry of Justice has ordered an independent review into the incident, responding to criticism from survivors and families of those killed in the Manchester bombing.

Abedi's older brother, Salman Abedi, detonated a homemade explosive device at the end of an Ariana Grande concert on 22 May 2017, killing 22 people and injuring more than 1,000 others. The bombing remains one of the UK's worst terrorist attacks in recent history.