

Student stabbed by her ex gets law degree after fight for justice

Isobel Frodsham

A STUDENT who became a symbol of women's struggle for justice in Pakistan after being stabbed by her ex-boyfriend is to go into human rights law after graduating from a London university.

Khadija Siddiqi, 24, was left fighting for her life after being ambushed and knifed 23 times as she collected her six-year-old sister from school.

She suffered wounds to her throat, abdomen and arms in the attack by Shah Hussain, 24, in Lahore in May 2016. Ms Siddiqi, who was 21 and studying remotely for a law degree at the University of London at the time, finished her studies last summer.

She told of her pride after graduating with a 2:1 in a ceremony held at the Barbican Centre last week.

"It's been such a long and tiring journey, but I finally have my degree. I feel great," she said. "I want to pursue human rights and criminal law. That's what



Pride: Khadija Siddiqi at her graduation

I've been struggling for over the past three years and it's made me adamant and motivated to go into this field. The attack gave me the direction to lead and become a voice for others. I'm hoping I can go to Cambridge for my master's in criminal and human rights law."

Hussain was convicted of attempted murder in 2017 and jailed for seven years. But his conviction was quashed last year. Ms Siddiqi launched a social media campaign with hashtags #JusticeforKhadija and #FightLikeKhadija.

In January, the Pakistan Supreme Court overturned the acquittal, after the case prompted a debate on violence against women. Hussain was jailed for five years.

Ms Siddiqi, who now lives in Islington, said getting her degree was "an amalgamation of grief, studying, going to the courts... I think it shows you can fight for yourself... and achieve what you aim for".

Now studying for the Bar at City University, she said she hopes to practise law in Pakistan in future, adding: "I feel it's my responsibility to help women and give them a voice."

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Keira reveals party trick... and a Love Actually secret

KEIRA KNIGHTLEY revealed an unlikely musical talent as she played songs including Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head and Despacito on her teeth during a US chat show appearance.

The actress also disclosed why her Love Actually character wore a hat, telling Jimmy Fallon: "I got the biggest zit of my life... like a head on top of my head, so that's the reason."



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