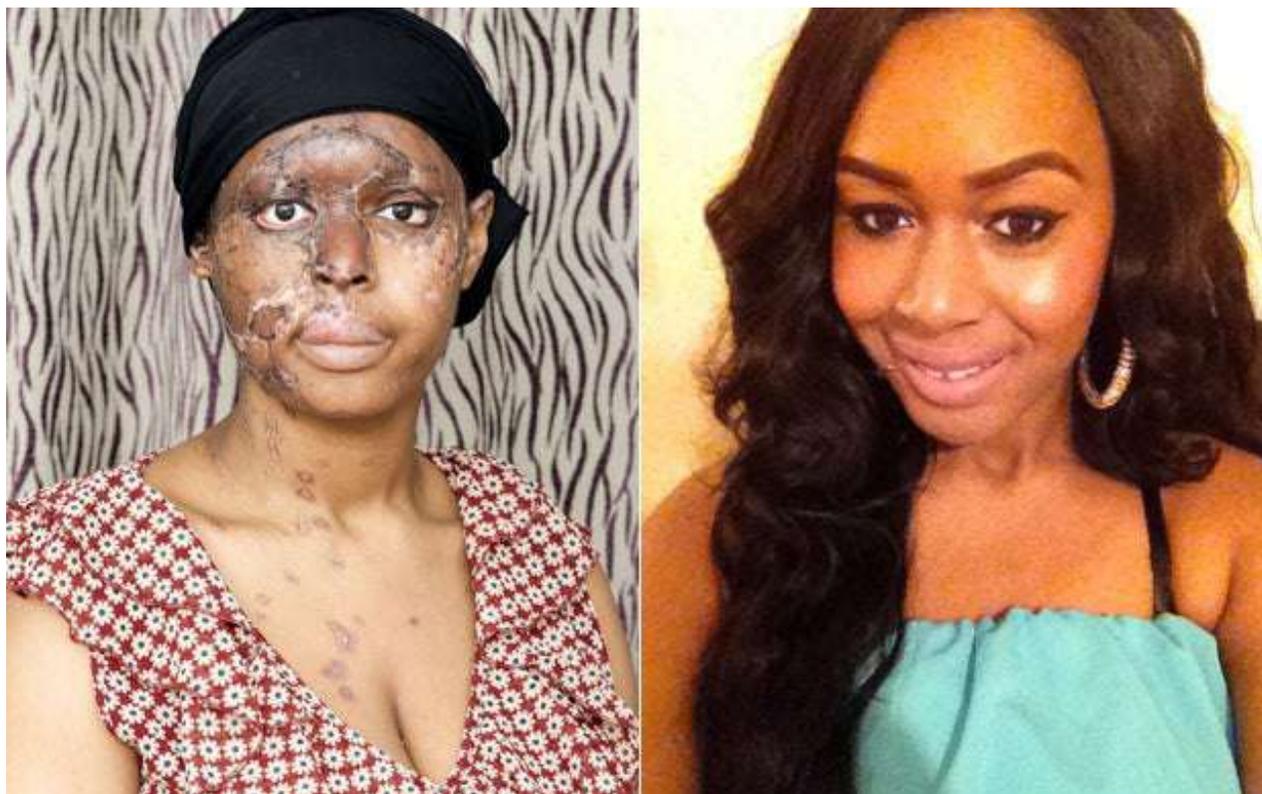


It felt like someone was trying to kill me, says acid attack victim Naomi Oni as she breaks down on witness stand

standard.co.uk/news/crime/it-felt-like-someone-was-trying-to-kill-me-says-acid-attack-victim-naomi-oni-as-she-breaks-down-on-witness-stand-9043731.html

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'Hurtful' accusations: acid victim Naomi Oni before and after the attack

A Victoria's Secret shop assistant broke down in tears today as she told how she thought was going to be killed in an acid attack.

Naomi Oni, 21, was scarred for life after an attacker disguised in a niqab threw acid in her face as she was making her way home from the lingerie store at Westfield Stratford where she worked, the court heard.

The retail assistant's former friend, university student Mary Konye, 21, is accused of carrying out the attack allegedly motivated by her jealousy of Miss Oni's good looks and a row over a boyfriend. Snaresbrook Crown Court today heard evidence from Miss Oni who broke down on the witness stand as she recalled the attack on 30 December 2012 in Dagenham, east London.

Miss Oni said: "I got off the bus and was trying to cross into my road. I was still on the phone to my boyfriend. I felt a presence. I saw someone in black attire, a black niqab. I remember it facing me, staring directly at me. All I could see was the eyes." Miss Oni added: "I jumped within myself. I was shocked. As I turned my head I felt a massive splash on my face. As I felt the splash I immediately felt as if someone was trying to kill me. My instinct was to run and scream and get home as fast as I could."

The court heard Konye has admitted being the figure in a Muslim veil seen on CCTV following Miss Oni from work but denies the attack. She claims Miss Oni threw the acid herself.

The court heard Konye uploaded a picture of disfigured villain Freddy Krueger from the horror film Nightmare on Elm Street to her Blackberry Messenger with the status update "She better not mess with me or I will make her face look like this" before the attack.

Days after Miss Oni was attacked, Konye posted a picture of Kruger to her Whatsapp profile with the message "Who looks like Wrong Turn now?" — a reference to a character in another horror film.

Gareth Patterson, prosecuting, told the jury that several friends had told police Konye was angered because Miss Oni called her "Wrong Turn" after the disfigured cannibals from the horror film and mocked her looks.

The court heard Konye was "insecure" about her own looks and focused on Miss Oni, an "on/off" friend, "almost to the point of obsession".

Konye told a friend, Kamilah Andrews: 'What if I bought acid and threw it in her face, so she would know how she makes me feel?'

Mr Patterson said: "Kamilah Andrews confirms the victim and the defendant used to fall out.

"The defendant was insecure about her looks and appeared to be hurt by comments made about her looks by the victim, saying that she looked like 'Wrong Turn', a disfigured character from a horror film.

"Kamilah states the defendant would complain that the victim would never compliment her about her looks and that this greatly affected the defendant because she admired Naomi, almost to the point of obsession."

Konye denies throwing or casting a corrosive fluid with intent to burn, maim, disfigure, disable or do grievous bodily harm. The trial continues.