

“Patrick Argüello Died for Palestine Under the Banner of Internationalist Struggle”. *Al-Hurriya* (Beirut), 17 October 1970. Translated by *The Palestinian Revolution*, 2016.¹

The late Patrick Argüello was born in San Francisco to a Nicaraguan father and a North American mother. A University of California graduate, Patrick was studying in Geneva, Switzerland when he joined comrade Leila Khaled in hijacking an Israeli El Al plane last month. He died during the attempt, aged 27.

Argüello understood the righteousness of the Palestinian cause, and wholeheartedly supported Palestinian people’s rights. This compelled him to translate his advocacy into action. He was prepared to die for the sake of realising these rights when he embarked on the hijacking operation with his comrade Leila Khaled. He did not hesitate one moment to carry out the orders of the Popular Front command. In the on-board battle to crush the resistance, Israeli security personnel fired at him, and, once it became clear that the attempt had failed, Patrick pulled the safety ring on his hand grenade to blow up the plane.

In a press statement, Argüello’s mother said, ‘His greatest concern was the oppression that prevails in the world today...If Israelis were being persecuted, Patrick would have offered them his support’.

A British court jury has ruled that Argüello’s killing on board the El Al plane, on 6 September of this year, constituted a necessary protective measure. The jury’s statement added that Patrick’s martyrdom was a ‘legal killing’ carried out by an unknown, unidentifiable Israeli officer.

During the trial, it was further stated that Argüello was killed by three bullets fired at very close range. He spent his final moments bound and restrained. He was carried off the plane as soon it landed at Heathrow airport, but died on the way to the hospital.

David Frew, Chief Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, testified in court that all evidence suggested Argüello had been shot and killed during the battle with Israeli security officers, and not after he was tied up. This was a false, biased testimony, which contradicted eyewitness accounts given by the plane’s passengers.

A few minutes after the biased verdict was announced, Patrick’s mother, Kathleen Argüello, who attended the trial, stated, ‘My husband and I are proud of our son, who, in meeting this fate, was so profoundly affected by the

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injustices afflicting the Palestinian people that he was prepared to die for their sake’.

His brother, Robert Argüello, also present at the hearing, moved to identify the Israeli security officer who fatally shot his brother; but Judge John Burton said that British police lacked the ‘authority’ required to obtain the names of security personnel on board the Israeli plane, who remain unidentified.

Patrick Argüello, in his martyrdom, has illustrated that the question of rights, and the struggle for these rights, transcends borders; it is not only the cause of persecuted people, but also of all those who believe in truth and justice.

Patrick Argüello’s martyrdom will be a shining example of true conscience among people in imperialist states, who can stand firm in the face of deliberate disinformation and imperialist Zionism, that they may support the rights of the oppressed, and die for their cause.