

INTRODUCTION

We are here to remember.

We are here to recount.

We are here to bear witness.

We are here to pay tribute.

We are here to punish.

We are here for justice.

We are here to remember. Defendant Safarini committed his crime more than 17 years ago. The United States government never forgot. Within less than 48 hours after Pakistan had released the defendant from prison, the FBI captured him and brought him to this country to face the charges against him. The victims of this deadly hijacking and their family members have certainly never forgotten. They live every day without their loved ones who were killed. They live every day with the injuries, both physical and emotional, inflicted by the defendant. The victims have filled a notebook with their memories of pain and loss. Some have published articles and others have written books. They have told the Court in writing about their feelings and their grief. They surely have not forgotten.

We are here to recount. The facts of this case are brutal. Mere words cannot adequately convey the carnage experienced by those aboard Pan Am Flight 73.

We will do our best to recount the facts of this deadly terrorist attack, accompanied by visual images that provide a glimpse into the horror that took place aboard that plane. Then, victim after victim, family member after family member, will recount their own experiences. The voices of those victimized by the defendant will be heard.

We are here to bear witness. More than 50 victims and family members have traveled here from around the world and around the country to bear witness to the defendant's sentencing. Some will speak, some will remain silent. But all, by their presence, are speaking volumes. Others, too, are bearing witness.

Representatives from several United States government agencies, as well as officials from the Embassies of India, Pakistan and Mexico, are present to demonstrate their support of this prosecution, to commemorate the victims and to witness this sentencing.

We are here to pay tribute. Defendant Safarini is directly responsible for the deaths of at least 21 people, the attempted murder of about 358 other hostages, and the injury of at least 100 surviving passengers and crew. We will do our best to honor those who were murdered and those who survived.

We are here to punish. From the time this defendant

was brought into the custody of the United States, the government has consistently asserted that the appropriate punishment for this defendant is the death penalty. This Court, however, ruled that the death penalty is not legally available in this case. In light of the legal landscape in this case, the government agreed to the only plea that could possibly be appropriate under these circumstances – an admission of guilt to all 95 counts of the superseding indictment and an agreement to the maximum term of imprisonment on all 95 counts. The total agreed-upon sentence is three consecutive life terms plus 25 years, equivalent to a sentence of 160 years in prison. The government asks this Court to punish the defendant by accepting the agreed-upon sentence.

We are here for justice. Defendant Safarini should never live as a free man again. The government has committed itself to doing everything it can to assure that this defendant is never released on parole. We ask the Court to recommend, in the strongest terms possible, that the defendant never be released on parole. Justice must be done. The defendant should spend the rest of his life in jail.

Now, we begin to recount ...

NARRATIVE FOR POWER POINT PRESENTATION AT SENTENCING

IMAGE 1: On September 5, 1986, Pan American Flight 73 began its normal schedule very early in the morning. The jumbo jet, a Boeing 747, had a full complement of passengers and crew scheduled for the day's flights.

IMAGE 2: Pan Am Flight 73 began in Bombay, India, and flew to Karachi, Pakistan, where some passengers left the flight and other passengers began boarding for the next leg of the journey. The flight was scheduled to go to Frankfurt, West Germany, and from there, Pan Am Flight 73 was to continue on to New York City, its terminating destination.

IMAGE 3: However, Pan Am Flight 73 never left Karachi that day. At approximately 6:00 a.m., local time, as passengers were boarding the plane in Karachi, a van, appearing to be an airport security vehicle, approached the aircraft on the tarmac. There were four armed men in the vehicle, three of them wearing what

appeared to be airport security uniforms: pale blue shirts with emblems, dark blue pants, and a dark blue beret-type hat. The fourth man was wearing traditional Pakistani garb, called a Pathani suit. The driver of the van, dressed as a security official, was the defendant, Zaid Safarini.

IMAGE 4: The van parked close to Pan Am Flight 73. Two of the four men ran up the staircase set up for boarding passengers in the front of the aircraft, firing weapons and knocking over some passengers on the way, while the two other men ran up the staircase set up for boarding passengers toward the rear of the aircraft.

IMAGE 5: The men were brandishing and firing automatic assault weapons, and carried pistols and numerous hand grenades.

IMAGE 6: On that day, Pan Am Flight 73 was carrying about 379 passengers and crew, including 13 flight attendants. All of the flight attendants were Indian citizens in their early 20's, and all had been employed by Pan Am

for less than one year. All had been trained in Miami, Florida, by Pan Am in late 1985. This was Pan Am's first group of flight attendants from a country other than the United States. The photos on the right show the members of this distinguished class during their training period. The photo on the left shows Neerja Bhanot, a member of this class who served as the senior purser on Flight 73.

During the long hours of September 5, 1986, Neerja and her fellow flight attendants would act heroically to save countless lives. Four of those flight attendants have traveled here today to be present.

IMAGE 7: As the flight attendants noticed a commotion on the outside front stairway to the aircraft, some initially thought that Pakistani security personnel were handling a security problem with a boarding passenger. Once the four armed men entered the aircraft at both the front and rear entrance doors, however, one of them at the front entrance grabbed a flight attendant around the neck and pointed a pistol at her head,

while another of the armed men grabbed a flight attendant stationed in the rear of the plane and held a pistol to one side of her head and a grenade to the other side of her head.

IMAGE 8: The image now on the screen represents the inside of the plane at this point, once the hijackers had boarded the plane and forced the flight attendants to close the exit doors. The green dots represent the passengers trapped on board in the first class, business class and economy cabins; the blue dots represent the flight attendants and other Pan Am employees who were located throughout the cabins, the orange dots represent three of the four hijackers, and the red dot represents defendant Safarini, the fourth hijacker, who was the on-site leader of the operation.

IMAGE 9: Several of the flight attendants who saw what was happening communicated with the cockpit crew, sending a “hijack” code over the telephone intercom. As a result of this warning, the pilot, co-pilot and flight engineer all followed Pan Am’s standard

operating procedure and exited the cockpit using emergency ropes before any hijacker could reach the cockpit to commandeer the flight.

IMAGE 10: In order to maintain complete control over the hostages on the aircraft, the hijackers ordered the passengers and crew to move from the first class, the business class and one of the three coach class sections of the cabin into two coach sections. This required people to sit in the aisles. The passengers and many crew members were forced to sit in a crouched position, with heads down and hands above their heads for long lengths of time. The four hijackers maintained specific positions in the front and the back areas of the aircraft to insure full control over the captive passengers and crew. No food or drink was distributed until many hours had passed, and bathroom use was initially denied and later required the permission of the hijackers.

Once the passengers were secured, Safarini began to make his way upstairs on the 747 aircraft to the cockpit, forcing a flight

attendant named Sunshine to accompany him and show him where it was. When he finally forced the cockpit door open, he discovered that the flight crew had escaped.

Throughout the day, Safarini used Sunshine, and later another flight attendant named Sherene, as a human shield, with his arm around each one's neck, as he moved about the cabin.

Both Sunshine Vesuwala and Sherene Pavan have traveled here today and both plan to address this Court later in the proceedings.

IMAGE 11: Who is this person, the leader of this mission, defendant Zaid Hassan Abd Latif Safarini? Unbeknownst to his captives and to law enforcement authorities at the scene, he was 24 years old when he led the hijackers to commandeer Pan Am Flight 73. Since 1979, he had been a member of the Abu Nidal Organization, a notorious terrorist organization, and this was not his first terrorist mission.

During the summer of 1981, when he was

19 years old, Safarini was sent by the Abu Nidal Organization to the country of Malta to assassinate a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization. On October 8, 1981, he saw what he believed to be the PLO representative's car on a commercial street and waited for the man to return to the car. When he saw the man, he shot the man five times at close range with a semiautomatic pistol. The man died, but he was not the person Safarini was sent to kill. The man was a Lebanese businessman. Safarini was captured attempting to flee the area. He gave a detailed confession of the planned assassination to the Maltese police authorities. On June 11, 1982, as he was awaiting trial for that murder, defendant Safarini escaped from prison in Malta with another inmate, facilitated by money, a pistol, ammunition and a radio sent into the prison by friends of the defendant after he contacted them in Iraq. Defendant Safarini returned to the ANO after his successful escape from Malta.

IMAGE 12: The Abu Nidal Organization, or ANO, was one of the most dangerous, active and

murderous terrorist organizations operating in the 1980's. It is a Palestinian organization founded in 1974 by a man named Sabri Al Banna, who was also known by the nom de guerre of Abu Nidal. He founded the ANO after splitting from the PLO's Fatah organization, which he considered to be too moderate. The ANO's headquarters were in Baghdad, Iraq, from its founding until 1980, and thereafter moved to Syria and by 1985, had moved to Libya. The ANO carried out operations against targets in Arab countries, Europe, South America and Asia. Targets included Palestinian militants considered to be too moderate. Beginning in the 1980's, the ANO attacked Jewish, Israeli and Western targets.

IMAGE 13: Among the ANO's most well known mass casualty operations carried out before the hijacking of Pan Am flight 73 were the November 1985 hijacking of EgyptAir Flight 648, which resulted in the death of at least 57 people at the airport in Malta,

IMAGE 14: and the December 1985 coordinated attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports, which

killed 16 people and wounded scores of others.

IMAGE 15: Within a short time after seizing control of the aircraft, Safarini ordered the flight attendants to collect passports from the passengers.

Fearing that the hijackers would be most interested in targeting American citizens for brutal treatment, the flight attendants, risking their own lives, deliberately refused to accept United States passports from some passengers and hid several United States passports under seat cushions. After the passports were collected, defendant Safarini ordered the flight attendants to separate the American passports from the others and bring the American passports to him. He became visibly distraught after the only United States passports he received belonged to passengers of Indian or Pakistani origin or ancestry.

IMAGE 16: Defendant Safarini began demanding a replacement crew soon after taking over the aircraft. At first, he spoke to a Pan Am

official face to face, periodically opening the front door to the aircraft, dictating his message to a flight attendant who used a megaphone to relay the demands to a Pan Am official below.

The Pan Am official who bravely exposed himself to stand on the tarmac and negotiate with Safarini was Pan Am Karachi station manager Viraf Daroga. Mr. Daroga has traveled here today and will address this Court later in the proceedings.

IMAGE 17: On board Pan Am Flight 73, Safarini told various flight attendants and passengers that he wanted to fly the aircraft to Cyprus, where he would demand the release of certain Palestinian prisoners being held there for the murder of several Israeli nationals.

IMAGE 18: Safarini became extremely frustrated with the lack of progress in obtaining a flight crew. He began to walk through the economy sections of the plane where his hostages were being held. He stopped to ask passengers about their nationalities. He

eventually reached Rajesh Kumar, a 29-year-old California resident of Indian ancestry who had become a United States citizen only two months before the hijacking.

IMAGE 19: Defendant Safarini ordered Mr. Kumar to come to the front of the aircraft. Mr. Kumar complied. Defendant Safarini ordered Mr. Kumar to kneel at the front doorway of the aircraft with his hands behind his head. Mr. Kumar was bent over. He started to cry and told defendant Safarini that he was on the plane with his grandmother. Defendant Safarini kicked him and told him to shut up. Defendant Safarini then ordered a flight attendant to open the door. Safarini spoke with Mr. Daroga on the tarmac about getting a flight crew to fly the plane to Larnaca, Cyprus.

At about 10:00 a.m., after being told that a crew was being flown in to Karachi, defendant Safarini became angry, pulled Mr. Kumar by the scruff of the neck and threatened that he would shoot Mr. Kumar if something was not done within 15 minutes.

After this, defendant Safarini ordered a flight attendant to reopen the door to the aircraft. He grabbed Mr. Kumar, put a pistol to his head, and once the door was open, defendant Safarini shot Mr. Kumar in the head. Mr. Kumar dropped to floor, at the feet of two flight attendants who witnessed the brutal execution. Safarini then kicked Mr. Kumar in the bottom, heaved him out of the door and onto the tarmac below, threw the pistol out after Mr. Kumar and pulled the door shut.

IMAGE 20: Mr. Kumar was still breathing as he was placed in an ambulance, but he was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the hospital.

IMAGE 21: Repeatedly throughout the hijacking, defendant Safarini threatened to blow up the aircraft with all passengers and crew on board. Safarini's ability to carry out this threat was clear to many of those on board the aircraft. After some time, he removed his shirt and at his waist, passengers and crew saw what appeared to be a wide belt. In fact, this belt consisted of the high

explosive Semtex H. This explosive material had the capacity to destroy the entire aircraft if the belt were ever detonated.

IMAGE 22: After murdering Mr. Kumar, defendant Safarini threatened to kill another passenger every ten minutes if his demands for a flight crew were not met. Safarini soon selected another passenger to come forward. This passenger began to pray to Allah. Satisfied that the passenger was a Muslim, defendant Safarini allowed him to return to his seat.

IMAGE 23: Defendant Safarini then called forward another passenger, a British citizen who spent much of the rest of the hijacking kneeling in front of the aircraft, certain that he would be the next passenger killed.

That passenger, Michael Thexton, survived the hijacking and he has flown here today. He will address the Court later in the proceeding.

IMAGE 24: Following the murder of Mr. Kumar, defendant Safarini demanded someone who

could operate the cockpit radio, so that he could establish radio communications with the Pakistani authorities. Mr. Meherjee Kharas, a 25-year-old Pan Am mechanic, had been conducting equipment checks on the aircraft during its stop in Karachi, and was caught on board the plane when the hijackers took control of the aircraft. Mr. Kharas was identified as someone who could assist in operating the radio in the cockpit to facilitate continuing communications.

From that point onward until shortly before the end of the hijacking, all communications between the cockpit and tower were conducted by defendant Safarini using the radio, operated by Mr. Kharas.

IMAGE 25: Defendant Safarini's words and his intentions were very clear from the transcript of the cockpit to tower communications which were recorded, preserved, later translated and verified by witnesses to these events.

"I possess enough bombs to blow up the

plane, and all of its occupants."

"We will not spare anybody in the plane, whether young or old if you do not cooperate. We will not leave anyone."

"I am the leader of this operation."

IMAGE 26: "We do not bargain. We do not seek a truce, we do not negotiate."

"We are suicidal and capable of blowing ourselves up at any moment. We are carrying bombs on our bodies."

IMAGE 27: "I will kill all of them, and I will not show mercy toward any of them. . . ."

"I will kill all including the children, old people, the women, young and old."

"We are merciless people. We do not know tolerance."

IMAGE 28: By the evening of September 5th, the interior of the aircraft had become uncomfortably warm. Pan Am employee

Meherjee Kharas told defendant Safarini that the auxiliary power unit would soon fail. This meant that the lighting, circulation and other aircraft systems would shut down as daylight faded into night. The lights on the aircraft began to flicker, indicating the approaching final power loss.

Defendant Safarini ordered Mr. Kharas and flight attendant Sherene Pavan out of the cockpit area and escorted them, along with a few other hostages who had been seated in the business class section, back into the two economy class sections where all the remaining hostages were compressed by the hijackers. People were pressed literally on top of each other in seats and seated in the aisles. The four hijackers moved into their final positions, in the left and right aisles, two men behind the assembled hostages, and two men, including defendant Safarini, in front of the hostages.

IMAGE 29: There was an eerie silence as the plane went dark. Safarini called out to each of his comrades, each of whom responded. Then there was a cry of “jihad.” Defendant

Safarini and the other three hijackers opened fire on the hostages from all four positions with their automatic weapons.

_____ They continued firing their assault weapons until their ammunition was exhausted, shooting everyone in their line of fire.

IMAGE 30: The interior of the aircraft was riddled with bullets, as shown in some of these photos.

IMAGES 31-35: [no text]

IMAGE 36: The automatic weapons fire was only one aspect of the massive assault on the hostages. The hijackers also threw at least six hand grenades at the hostages which detonated inside the airplane. The carnage was horrendous.

IMAGES 37-39: [no text]

IMAGE 40: The grenades ripped through the floor of the aircraft, as shown in these photos.

IMAGE 41: At least 20 people were killed and more than 100 hostages were maimed or injured in the

final assault. Still, it is no less than miraculous that so many hostages managed to survive the final assault. One of those survivors was the little girl who wore this dress, which was drenched in the blood of other passengers.

This girl, now grown, has traveled here today, as has her mother who shielded her with her own body from the bullets, and several other members of this family, who will address this Court later in the proceeding.

Although the girl who wore this dress was traveling with her mother, there were at least nine other children aboard Pan Am Flight 73 who were unaccompanied by any adult. They endured the horrors of this attack alone and many were then cared for by the flight attendants for days after the attack, until they could be reunited with family members. Some of those unaccompanied minors, now grown, have traveled here today and will address the Court.

IMAGE 42: As the bullets and grenades flew, Neerja

Bhanot, as well as other flight attendants and passengers, heroically managed to force open two exits in the economy section. The opening of the rear exit triggered inflation of the emergency slide, but the opening of the exit over the wing did not trigger the inflation of a second emergency slide.

IMAGE 43: People clamored to reach both exits, fearful that the hijackers would resume the assault. This diagram illustrates the efforts of surviving hostages to escape the aircraft, using the emergency slide and climbing onto the wing of the plane.

IMAGE 44: While the slide was the safer escape route, the sheer number of people attempting to leave the plane through this exit at night resulted in additional injuries to some who were unable to exit quickly enough to avoid being crushed by others behind them.

IMAGE 45: The many people who escaped onto the wing of the plane were faced with three desperate options. Some chose to jump about 20 feet to the hard tarmac. Almost all

of these people suffered injuries as a result of this jump and some of them were left unable to walk away from the aircraft. Others attempted to jump from the wing onto the inflated slide at the rear exit of the plane many feet away. Few succeeded in making this jump and many landed on the tarmac instead, suffering serious injuries. At the direction of several flight attendants, other passengers re-entered the plane, climbing over the wounded and dead, and used the rear exit where the slide was inflated to the safer escape route.

IMAGE 46: Once off the aircraft and onto the tarmac, the injured were taken to several area hospitals for treatment. Because of the volume of injuries, trucks, vans and other vehicles were used as makeshift ambulances.

The list of those who suffered serious injuries is too long to recount. Some suffered gunshot wounds, others broken bones, many suffered from shrapnel wounds, a few went into a coma and several lost limbs or other body parts. Many of

those who suffered serious injuries have submitted written statements to the Court describing the lifelong struggle to live with their injuries. Some of those people are in attendance today.

IMAGE 47: Personal belongings strewn outside the aircraft and in the terminal building reflected the devastation of Pan Am flight 73.

IMAGES 48-52: [no text]

IMAGE 53: Three of the hijackers left the plane at the same time as the fleeing hostages. On this diagram, the orange dots represent their effort to escape the plane. Their attempt to blend into the crowd and escape detection failed when passengers reaching the airport terminal in Karachi identified them to the authorities.

IMAGE 54: Defendant Safarini had instructed one of his accomplices to shoot him in the waist area at some point during the final assault, presumably with the hope that the shot would detonate the explosives belt that he

wore. His fellow hijacker followed instructions and shot Safarini, seriously wounding him, but not detonating the explosives belt.

Defendant Safarini was among the wounded found on the plane. He was removed from the plane by rescue workers who did not know he was a hijacker. He was later identified as a hijacker at an area hospital, still wearing the plastic explosives belt. He was given full medical treatment and recovered from his wounds.

[Narrator switch from Gregg to Jenny.]

IMAGE 55: During the taped-recorded negotiations, defendant Safarini had threatened: “There will be many victims on the plane. The victims will be innocent children and women. . . . The passengers will be the victims.” Tragically, defendant Safarini carried out his threat.

The 21 people known to have been murdered include citizens of four countries, ranging from the age of 7 to the age of 81;

people from many walks of life; some who had achieved remarkable accomplishments, others who showed great promise of contributions to their families and society at large. When defendant Safarini and his comrades opened fire on the passengers and crew and killed these 21 people, they not only took the lives of 21 innocent people, but they shattered the lives of hundreds of people who were their family, friends and colleagues. The loss of these victims to their loved ones and the world at large may be impossible to quantify. All were remarkable, and are still sorely missed by their loved ones, friends and colleagues.

Victim impact statements have been submitted to the Court to give the Court a better sense of who many of these people were, and serve as tributes to their lives. In seeking such statements, we have found that many relatives still bear deep scars of their loss, and for a considerable number of people, the creation of written statements was extremely difficult and painful. In some cases, the challenge of creating a victim impact statement has been too great

for relatives to meet, since the prosecution of defendant Safarini for his crimes has reopened deep wounds that have taken almost 18 years to heal.

As was mentioned at the outset, we are also privileged to have in court family members of some of these victims, who may wish to address the Court concerning their loved ones. In some cases, family members of the victims killed by defendant Safarini and his comrades on Pan Am flight 73 found it too difficult to relive their loss by attending the sentencing. We are all the more grateful that the family members who are here today have found the strength to be present, despite the great emotional challenge.

We would like to take this opportunity to tell the Court a little about each of the victims who perished. For some, despite extensive efforts, we have been unable to learn a great deal, given the passage of time and the inability to locate family or friends. In many cases, however, family members and friends have shared with us memories and information to help us describe their

loved ones who were killed.

IMAGE 56: Rajesh Kumar: 29-year-old Rajesh Kumar was an aspiring businessman in California. He had been born in Kenya, but his family was Indian by heritage. He was married and had just become a United States citizen several months before the hijacking. In fact, he was issued his United States passport on July 21, 1986.

Mr. Kumar was the second of three sons. His older brother had died at the age of 35 before Mr. Kumar's fateful flight on Pan Am flight 73. His younger brother was killed in a car accident just within the past couple of years.

Rajesh Kumar had gone to India to escort his 81-year-old grandmother and his aunt back to the United States to celebrate his new American citizenship and show them his home. Mr. Kumar's grandmother and aunt were on Pan Am flight 73 with him when he was executed by defendant Safarini.

A first cousin of Mr. Kumar submitted a victim impact statement on behalf of the family, describing him as very humble, and always looking for ways to serve the community.

IMAGE 57: Surendra Patel: Mr. Patel had just celebrated his 50th birthday in late August of 1986. He was a United States citizen and the father of three children, ages 14, 12 and 6. His youngest child, in fact, turned 7 years old the same week that Mr. Patel was killed. Mr. Patel was of Indian ancestry, and he was the oldest of four sons in his family. Mr. Patel had a Master's Degree from the University of Southern California. He had several jobs at the time of his death: he owned a video store and some rental properties, he did tax preparations, and he taught business classes at the University of Southern California.

Mr. Patel was on Pan Am flight 73 with his two older children, traveling home from a visit with relatives. They took an earlier flight than his wife and youngest child because the older children had to get back

home for the beginning of school. Mr. Patel was shot to death in the final assault carried out by defendant Safarini and his comrades, as his two children sat in the seats next to him. The younger child suffered a fractured skull from a bullet that grazed her head, and medical decisions about the care to be given in Pakistan had to be made by the older sibling, since no other parent or guardian was available.

Mr. Patel's two older children are here in Court today.

IMAGE 58: Seetharamiah Krishnaswamy: Mr. Krishnaswamy was 61 years old when he was killed. He was an Indian citizen who had retired as the Chief of Operations and the Assistant Secretary to the Railway Ministry of the Western Railway in Bombay. Before joining the Railway, Mr. Krishnaswamy had earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in physics, and had been a lecturer at BMS College in India.

Mr. Krishnaswamy was married and the father of four children, three of whom are

naturalized United States citizens. He and his wife were traveling on Pan Am flight 73 to the United States to attend the wedding of one of their daughters.

Mr. Krishnaswamy's son is here in Court today and plans to address the Court.

IMAGE 59: Kala Singh: Mrs. Singh was an Indian citizen, 36 years old, the mother of four children. She was married to a United States citizen. Mrs. Singh was an audiologist by training. She had been a part-time teacher of audiology at Ohio University, and thereafter co-authored a major textbook on phonetics with her husband. Mrs. Singh was also a businesswoman, first having opened, run and sold a thriving Indian boutique, and later on, having founded a book publishing company with her husband.

In 1986, Mrs. Singh's husband had major heart surgery. The couple decided to sell their publishing company and take two of their children, then ages 13 and 8, to India to visit their ancestral roots. The four of them

were on Pan Am flight 73 returning home to the United States after their trip to India.

Mrs. Singh was shot in the head during the final assault, as she shielded her two children behind her. Mr. Singh was also seriously injured.

In the weeks after Mrs. Singh's death, Mr. Singh wrote a manuscript he titled, "Death of a Lotus." A copy of that manuscript was submitted to the Court, as well as a victim impact statement from the older of Mrs. Singh's two children who were on the flight. The loss of Kala Singh to her family, as described both in the manuscript and in the child's statement, is nothing short of devastating.

Members of Kala Singh's family could not travel to the sentencing for medical reasons.

IMAGE 60: Trupti Dalal: Trupti Dalal was a 36-year-old Indian citizen, the mother of an 11-year-old son who was traveling with her on Pan Am flight 73. This photograph is the last photo taken of her and her son before she

died. She was the leader of the Aavishkar dance troupe, a group of 22 people traveling on Pan Am flight 73 to the United States to perform a cultural program. Ms. Dalal's husband could not travel with her and her son on Flight 73 because of last minute difficulties with confirming the airline ticket. Ms. Dalal's sister was among those who traveled with the troupe.

When the final assault began, Ms. Dalal hid her son's head in her lap. She was hit with a bullet in the head, but her son was not told about his mother's death for 3 or 4 days, when he was with his father in India.

Ms. Dalal had a brother who is here in Court today with his wife. Ms. Dalal's son would also be here, but he is about to become a father himself.

IMAGE 61: Imran Rizvi: Imran Rizvi was 17 years old when he was killed on Pan Am flight 73. He was a Pakistani citizen who was the son of the Senior Commercial Analyst to the United States Consul General in Karachi, Pakistan. Imran's father had served in the

United States Embassy for 28 years at the time of the hijacking. Imran was an active sportsman, particularly interested in cricket.

Imran was traveling on Pan Am flight 73 with his sisters, then ages 15 and 24. They were all going to the United States to visit an older brother who lived there. The three Rizvi children were sitting in the front of the economy section when defendant Safarini and his comrades opened fire on the passengers and crew. A grenade was thrown directly in front of them, seriously injuring all of them. Imran suffered head wounds, but was taken off the aircraft by his sisters alive. He was hospitalized in Pakistan, placed on life support systems. He died from his wounds several days later, after he was removed from life support.

His sisters both suffered amputations of parts of their feet and legs due to shrapnel damage. Due to the physical condition of both sisters, Imran's parents did not tell them of Imran's death until about seven weeks after he had died.

Imran's father and one of his sisters submitted victim impact statements that reflect the shattering effects that the hijacking had on the family. Even today, one of Imran's brothers had planned to attend the sentencing, but when he informed his father, the father became so upset that he was hospitalized with heart trouble.

The Commerce Department official for whom Imran's father worked at the United States Embassy also submitted a statement and is present today in Court. In his written submission, this official described Imran's father as a man who gave meaning to the expression, "salaam" (peace).

IMAGE 62: Neerja Bhanot: Ms. Bhanot was the senior purser on board Pan Am flight 73. She was an Indian citizen who was also employed as a model. Her parents lived in Bombay, where her father was a journalist. She had two older brothers. She had been working for Pan Am for approximately 10 months at the time of the hijacking. She was assigned to the first class cabin of the aircraft. She helped to warn the cockpit crew of the

hijacking, thereby enabling them to escape before defendant Safarini could get to the cockpit. During the 16 hours of the hijacking, Ms. Bhanot was responsible for making announcements to the passengers as authorized by defendant Safarini and the other hijackers.

When the lights went out just before the final assault, Ms. Bhanot ran for the emergency door and activated the inflatable chute. Instead of escaping as one of the first off the aircraft, she remained on board to help others out of the plane. She was shot in the final assault. Although she was taken off the plane alive by her fellow flight attendants, she died shortly afterwards of massive bleeding. Her family received her coffin on September 7, 1986, which would have been her 23rd birthday.

Ms. Bhanot was given a prestigious national award posthumously for her bravery on board Pan Am flight 73. Her family also established an award in her name and each year, a new recipient is selected among Indian women who have demonstrated

particular courage and achievement.

Ms. Bhanot's brother is present in Court today and plans to speak.

IMAGE 63: Meherjee Kharas: Mr. Kharas was 25 years old when he was killed on board Pan Am flight 73. He was a Pakistani citizen and an employee of Pan Am who was servicing the plane when it was hijacked by defendant Safarini and his comrades. He had been employed by Pan Am since 1981, following his employment with Air France. He had received his initial training in Karachi, and had obtained additional mechanical licenses from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. Ironically, Mr. Kharas was substituting for a colleague who had taken the day off, and thus, was not supposed to be working that day. Mr. Kharas was married at the time of his death.

As recounted earlier, after defendant Safarini executed Rajesh Kumar, Mr. Kharas became responsible for operating the radio equipment when defendant Safarini made contact with the tower. He was also

the one who told defendant Safarini, as lights began to flicker after about 16 hours, that the auxiliary power unit would fail, cutting power to the lights and the ventilation system. Mr. Kharas was led from the cockpit into the economy class section by defendant Safarini just before the final assault. Mr. Kharas was killed by multiple gunshot wounds.

He was a cheerful and sweet natured man who had many friends. He was also known to be cool-headed.

IMAGE 64: Krishna Gadde: Ms. Gadde was a 28-year-old scientist. She was an Indian citizen, married to another scientist. Ms. Gadde was working on her PhD in microbiology at the University of Missouri, Columbia, at the time of her death, and was involved in research to develop a malaria vaccine. She had obtained a graduate degree in India specializing in genetics, and had dreamt of becoming a genetic researcher with a research institute in the United States. Ms. Gadde had three sisters and two brothers. Four of her siblings live in the United

States. Ms. Gadde was on board Pan Am flight 73 with her husband, after visiting family and friends in India. They had missed an earlier flight that would have brought them back home to the United States.

Ms. Gadde was killed by grenade explosions. Her husband was seriously injured and lost several toes as a result of his injuries.

Two of Ms. Gadde's siblings, a nephew and her widower are in Court today.

IMAGE 65: Kuverben Patel: Mrs. Patel was the 81-year-old grandmother of American murder victim Rajesh Kumar. She was an Indian citizen, traveling on Pan Am flight 73 with her daughter and her grandson to visit her relatives living in the United States.

IMAGE 66: Dr. Ganapathi Thanikaimoni: Dr. Thanikaimoni was a 48-year-old Indian citizen, who was known as "Thani" to his friends and colleagues. He was the Director of the Palynology Laboratory at the French

Institute in Pondicherry, India, at the time of his death. Palynology is the study of pollen grains, and Dr. Thanikaimoni specialized in the study of pollen both in modern flora and in fossils. He wrote extensively in scientific publications and created a definitive five-volume compilation of reference material for laboratory use. “Thani” was married and the father of two small children at the time of his death.

He was traveling on Pan Am flight 73 to present a lecture at a symposium on marine palynology, as part of the UNESCO-sponsored conference at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts. He was not only a world-renowned scientist, but a man known for his humanity, compassion and respect for all living things.

IMAGE 67: Rupal Desai: Ms. Desai was approximately 26 years old at the time of her death. She was an Indian citizen who was a member of the Aavishkar dance troupe traveling to the United States for a cultural program. She was engaged to be married.

IMAGE 68: Bogby Thomachen Mellor: Bogby was a 7-year-old boy, an Indian citizen believed to be traveling with his family on Pan Am flight 73.

IMAGE 69: Thomachen Thoms Mellor: Mr. Mellor was approximately 30 years old. He is believed to be the father of Bogby Thomachen Mellor.

IMAGE 70: Aleyamma Skaria Nagatholy: Ms. Nagatholy was an Indian citizen, approximately 39 years old. She was married and had been a nurse by profession.

IMAGE 71: Ramikant Naik: Mr. Naik was an Indian citizen, approximately 55 years old. He was traveling on Pan Am flight 73 with his wife, who also suffered gunshot wounds to her leg and shrapnel wounds to her face during the final assault.

IMAGE 72: Gorgi Gopal: Mrs. Gopal was an Indian citizen. She was married and traveling with her husband on Pan Am flight 73. Mrs. Gopal's husband suffered a gunshot wound to his hand and five bullet wounds in his leg

during the final assault on the aircraft.

IMAGE 73: Kodyattu Kurian: All we know about this victim is that he was an Indian citizen, approximately 25-30 years old.

IMAGE 74: Syed Nesar Ahmad: Mr. Ahmad was a 43-year-old Pakistani citizen who was a legal permanent resident of the United States when he was killed, having moved to North America in 1965. He was married to a United States citizen and the father of a five-year-old child who was also a United States citizen. Trained in philosophy, psychology, Islamic history and sociology, Mr. Ahmad was a researcher and sociologist who taught at a number of colleges and universities in Pakistan, Canada and the United States. At the time of his death, Mr. Ahmad was a member of the faculty of Friends World College on Long Island. Mr. Ahmad was traveling to New York on Pan Am Flight 73 after attending the 11th World Congress of Sociology in New Delhi and presenting his dissertation entitled, “Origins of Muslim Consciousness in India, A World-System Perspective.” His widow arranged for a

book to be published based on this dissertation after Mr. Ahmad was killed.

IMAGE 75: Ricardo Munoz Rosales: Mr. Munoz was a 35-year-old Mexican citizen. He was married and had four children, ages 8, 7, 6 and 4, when he was killed. He was the sole wage earner for his family and his death caused great financial hardship to his family.

Mr. Munoz had been employed as a derrick operator on an offshore drilling rig in India at the time of his death. He had stayed on the job beyond his 28-day shift to cover for another employee who failed to appear for his shift. Mr. Munoz was returning to the United States on Pan Am flight 73 with three co-workers.

IMAGE 76: Jose Alvarez Lamar Nunez: Known to his colleagues as "Pepe," Mr. Alvarez was a Mexican citizen, approximately 57 years old. He was married and had 8 children. He was the sole wage earner for his family and his death caused severe financial hardship to his family. His family was

forced to sell their possessions and move after he was murdered, because they could no longer afford to live in their house.

Mr. Alvarez had been employed as a rig superintendent for an offshore drilling operation underway in India at the time of his death. He was returning to the United States with three co-workers after completing 28 days of work on the offshore rig. Mr. Alvarez survived the final assault on the aircraft and was hospitalized in Pakistan for several days before succumbing to his injuries.

IMAGE 77: Defendant Safarini fully intended to undertake a suicide mission when he led his three colleagues to take control of Pan Am flight 73 on September 5, 1986.

He was clearly disappointed that his hijacking “mission” was not fully accomplished. When Safarini and his fellow hijackers were tried in Pakistan in 1987 and 1988, they submitted a joint statement to the court, signed by each of them. The joint statement revealed that the

aim of the hijackers was to fly the plane toward some “sensitive strategic centre of the Zionist enemy and to blow it there with us inside,” and that they wanted to “destroy sensitive strategic centre of Zionists situated in Palestine through American weapon, i.e., explosion of American aeroplane,” since they “wanted to strike at both enemies with one weapon at the same time.”

IMAGE 78: Safarini stated: “It was our dream and desire to saturate the land of Palestine with our blood. That is why we planned to blow the plane over Palestine. No doubt, this time we failed but one day we will be successful.”

There is no justification or mitigation that can explain or excuse the defendant’s decision to inflict terror on 379 men, women and children; to massacre 21 people, to maim and seriously injure scores of others; and to destroy the fabric of the lives of so many who survived.

The plea agreement, if accepted by the Court, stipulates that the defendant be sentenced to three consecutive life terms

plus 25 years, equal to 160 years, for his crimes on board Pan Am flight 73. Given the Court's ruling that the death penalty is not available in this case, this sentence represents the maximum penalty on each of the 95 counts against the defendant. The government therefore asks this Court to accept the agreed-upon sentence as appropriate and well-justified.

There is no question, given the nature of this crime and the defendant's role in it, that Mr. Safarini should never live as a free man again. The government has committed itself to doing everything it can to assure that this defendant is never released on parole.

As the Court is aware, because of the laws in effect at the time of this crime in 1986, defendant Safarini will nonetheless periodically receive parole hearings while he is serving his 160-year sentence. To ensure this defendant's lifelong incarceration, the government urges this Court to make a specific recommendation to the Parole Commission, in the strongest terms possible, never to release this

defendant on parole. The government further requests that the Court order that a copy of the transcript of these proceedings be sent to the Parole Commission for its files.

IMAGE 79: Defendant Safarini did not see fit to spare the lives of any of the hostages on board Pan Am flight 73, nor did he offer his 21 murder victims the opportunity to enjoy the rest of their lives in freedom. He did not show any compassion when he forced Mr. Kumar to his knees, shot him in the head, and kicked his body out of the aircraft. He did not show any hesitation when he ordered his comrades to open fire on the assembled hostages and participated in the ensuing holocaust.

The government respectfully submits that the Court should accept defendant Safarini's guilty plea and sentence him to spend 160 years in prison. It is time for justice to be done.