

Court hears Lockerbie bomber's appeal

by UPI

EDINBURGH, Scotland -- A court in Edinburgh Tuesday began hearing the appeal of the man convicted in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, court officials said.

In January 2001, Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed al-Megrahi was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the bombing of Flight 103, which killed 270 people, including 11 on the ground.

In June 2007, the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission ruled there were grounds for an appeal, CNN reported Tuesday.

Megrahi, who has maintained his innocence, was convicted of placing the bomb, hidden in a suitcase, on a flight from Malta to Frankfurt, Germany. From Germany, the bomb was transferred to the Pan Am plane that flew first to London's Heathrow Airport and then was to fly on to New York.

Megrahi, who worked at Malta's Luqa Airport, was a Libyan spy who had been seen buying clothes that were in the suitcase that contained the bomb, prosecutors said.

Libya formally accepted responsibility for the bombing, though the country's leader, Moammar Gadhafi, later denied any culpability.

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