

2009 Open Division Grand Final

Terrorist Released on Compassionate Grounds

Quodlibetical



On 21 December 1988 while on a flight from London to New York a Boeing 747-121 named *Clipper Maid of the Seas* exploded over Lockerbie in Scotland. All 243 passengers and 16 crew members were killed. A further 11 people died as a result of debris falling over the town. A terrorist bomb was suspected.

In 2001, after a lengthy investigation by Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, *Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi*, a Libyan, was convicted of involvement in the bombing and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Scottish Government released him on 20 August 2009 on compassionate grounds as he had terminal cancer. He was returned to Libya after having served eight years of his sentence.

There is also speculation that his release was based on commercial considerations – namely to secure a lucrative deal for Scotland and England whereby Libya would supply oil at a significant concession price.

Topic: "That the Scottish Government made the right decision."

Debaters are encouraged to conduct their own research in support of their case.