

SFChronicle

OCT 5 1972

Black Activist

2 Convicted of San Jose Killing

A San Jose jury found two Los Angeles men guilty yesterday of conspiracy, murder and possession of firebombs in the April 6 execution-style slaying of black activist James Edward Carr.

An eight-woman, four-man jury deliberated about 2½ hours before reaching its verdict in the four-week trial of Lamar Lloyd Mims, 21, and Richard Rodriguez, 22.

The two men were found guilty of the hired killing of Carr, 28, a protegee of slain "Soledad Brother" George Jackson, in the driveway of Carr's home. The victim was riddled with rifle bullets and buckshot a day before his 29th birthday.

COURTROOM

In an unusual move yesterday, Santa Clara county Superior Court Judge James B. Scott barred newsmen from the court as the verdict was read.

Reporters awaiting the verdict had to interview prosecution and defense attorneys to learn the outcome.

The trial, held in the same courtroom in which the Angela Davis case was heard,

was conducted with extremely tight security.

During the four weeks of testimony, the prosecution contended Mims and Rodriguez, who won the Silver Star for bravery in Vietnam, earned \$540 for the contract killing.

"They were doing a job," prosecutor Paul Pincipe told the jury during his final argument.

The defense claimed throughout that the state's case was based on circumstantial evidence, and attorney Fred Lucero had warned the jury to "be careful."

MOTIVE

The motive for the killing was never brought out during the trial, and numerous theories and rumors persist about Carr's associations in the black revolutionary movement.

Neither defendant testified in his own defense which rested Tuesday.

Mims and Rodriguez were arrested in Morgan Hill, 30 miles south of San Jose, shortly after the shooting.

Arresting officer Robert Carroll testified he found loaded weapons in their car which matched the description of one seen that morning near Carr's home.