

2 Guilty in Death Of Huey's Guard

Special to The Examiner

SAN JOSE — Two Southern California men will be sentenced Oct. 20 for first degree murder in the hired-for-pay slaying of a Huey Newton bodyguard.

A jury of eight women and four men deliberated for two and a half hours before reaching its verdict in the four week trial of Lamar Mims, 21, of Los Angeles, and Richard Rodriguez, 22, of Baldwin Park.

James Carr, 28, a former prison cellmate of "Soledad Brother" George Jackson, and a former Black Panther, was shot down in the driveway of his San Jose home April 6.

Medal

Rodriguez, holder of the Silver Star for bravery in the Vietnam war, and Mims were charged and convicted of the murder, conspiracy to commit murder and possession of firebombs.

Still unanswered, however, is the question of who hired them.

In a rare move, Santa Clara County Superior Judge James B. Scott barred newsmen from the court as the verdict was

read. They had to learn the outcome from the prosecution and defense attorneys.

During the testimony, the prosecution contended the two men had earned \$540 for the killing, presenting as evidence an expense account ledger listing everything the slayers had spent close to the time of the killing.

This, said one of the jurors, was one of the most damaging pieces of evidence against the pair.

'So Much'

The defense claimed the state's case was based purely on circumstantial evidence, a point on which the unidentified juror agreed, but, he added, "there was so much of it."

Carr was a body guard to Huey Newton when the two were at the Mens Colony at San Luis Obispo. Carr also served time at San Quentin, where he met Jackson, who was killed in an aborted escape attempt Aug. 21, 1971.

The men were tried in the same courtroom in which Angela Davis was tried and found not guilty of participation in the Marin County Courthouse shootout Aug. 20, 1970.

Attorneys for the pair said they will appeal the verdict.