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'Airliners plot': The allegations

AIRLINE BOMB PLOT TRIAL

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BACKGROUND

'Airliners plot': The allegations
 In pictures: Plane plot evidence

The trial of eight men accused of a plan to suicide-bomb passenger planes has begun at Woolwich Crown Court in south London.

The eight men all deny conspiring to murder others and endangering aircraft.

Below are the key allegations in the prosecution's introduction to what is expected to be a long and complicated case.

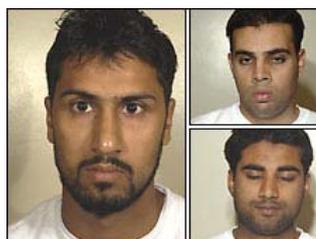
THE PLAN

Peter Wright QC, prosecuting, opened the trial saying the men had intended to target planes leaving the UK for North America.

Some of the men intended to take a home-made explosive on board the flights and detonate it themselves.

The prosecution says the explosions would have been co-ordinated and that the plot was nearing the moment of completion when arrests were made.

Some of the men were under surveillance, the court heard. The security services watched two of the men in a flat on Forest Road, Walthamstow, as they made "final



Alleged leaders: Ali (main), Sarwar (top right) and Gulzar (bottom right)

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They would then construct the devices mid-flight and detonate them.

The prosecution say the trial will show that the alleged bombers' devices would be sufficient to "cause a loss of their own lives but also all of those who happened by chance to be taking the same journey".



The alleged bombs would involve 500ml plastic bottles of the Oasis and Lucozade soft drinks. A sugary drink powder, Tang, would be mixed with hydrogen peroxide, used as a hair bleach, and other organic materials.

Hydrogen peroxide and the other ingredients can become explosive if mixed to a specific strength. Mr Wright said hydrogen peroxide had been used in "previous terrorist incidents".

The mixture would be injected into a bottle with the help of a syringe. The bottle's cap would not have been removed and the hole would have been resealed, said Mr Wright.

A second substance, a type of high explosive, would be hidden within an AA battery to form the small charge required to detonate the main bomb.

The charge would be detonated, said Mr Wright, by linking the bottle of explosives to a lightbulb and a disposable camera. The charge from the camera's flash unit would be enough to trigger the explosion, he said. The BBC has not comprehensively detailed the alleged bombs' composition.

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