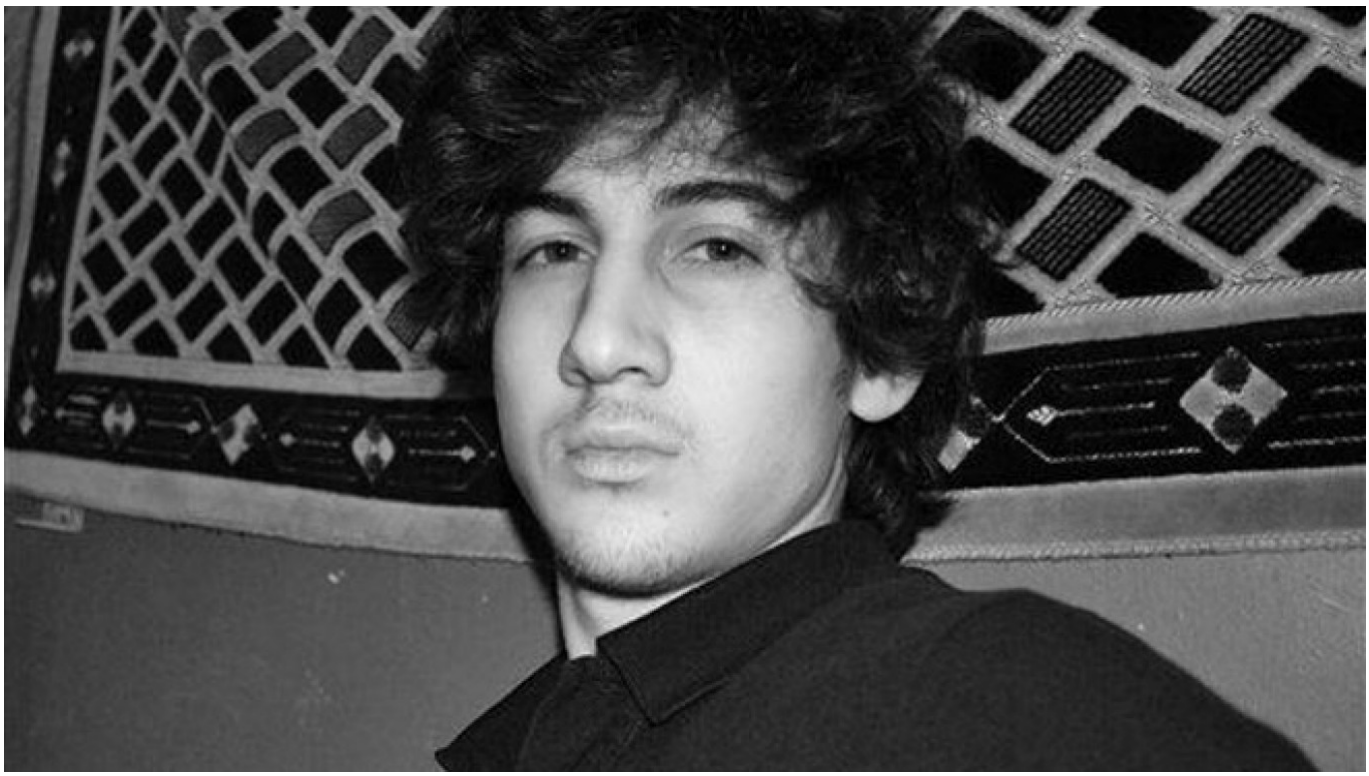
The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Boston Marathon Bomber Tsarnaev Found Guilty of All Charges

April 08, 2015



Dzhokhar Tsarnaev

Dzokhar Tsarnaev, an ethnic Chechen who immigrated to the U.S. from Russia more than a decade ago, was found guilty on Wednesday of killing three people and injuring 264 others in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and of fatally shooting a police officer four days later.

Tsarnaev, 21, was convicted of all 30 counts against him, with 17 of the charges carrying the death penalty. The same U.S. District Court jury will now decide whether to sentence him to death or life in prison without possibility of parole.

Tsarnaev silently looked down, occasionally fidgeting, as the lengthy verdict was read. The courtroom was packed with survivors of the attack, the parents of 8-year-old Martin Richard, the youngest fatality, and law enforcement officials, including former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis.

Jurors spent just over 11 hours evaluating Tsarnaev's guilt in two days of deliberations, following 16 days of testimony.

The amount of time spent in the jury room suggests the jurors were thorough in considering the charges, said David Weinstein, an attorney in private practice who in prior jobs as a state and local prosecutor brought death penalty cases.

"If this was a fait accompli, they would have been out in the amount of time it takes to shuffle through 30 pieces of paper," Weinstein said. "Sentencing deliberations are likely to take longer."

Defense lawyers began the trial by admitting that Tsarnaev carried out the April 15, 2013 bombing but said he did so at the bidding of his older brother Tamerlan, 26, who died following a gunfight with police in Watertown, Massachusetts.

Prosecutors laid out evidence that the defendant had read and listened to jihadist materials, and wrote a note in the boat where he was found hiding suggesting the bombing was an act of retribution for U.S. military campaigns in Muslim-dominated countries.

The blasts killed restaurant manager Krystle Campbell, 29, Chinese exchange student Lingzi Lu, 23, and Richard. Tsarnaev also was found guilty of the fatal shooting of Massachusetts of Institute of Technology police officer Sean Collier, 26.

Federal prosecutors detailed jihadi writings, including a copy of al-Qaida's Inspire magazine with an article on bomb-making found on of Tsarnaev's computers, describing that as evidence that he was an extremist who wanted to "punish America."

The trial, which began in early March after a two-month jury selection process, dredged up some of the worst memories in living memory in Boston. The twin pressure-cooker bombs ripped through the crowd of spectators at the race's finish line, setting off a mad rush to save the hundreds of people wounded, many of whom lost legs.

Three days later, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released images of the Tsarnaev brothers, saying they were the suspected bombers and seeking information on their identities. That set the stage for 24 hours of chaos as the duo fatally shot Collier in an unsuccessful attempt to steal his gun and went on to carjack a Chinese entrepreneur before police found them in the suburb of Watertown.

The pair fought a desperate gunfight with police, throwing a smaller pressure-cooker bomb similar to the ones they used at the race, as well as smaller pipe bombs. When Tamerlan Tsarnaev ran out of bullets in the rusty Ruger handgun his brother had borrowed from a drug-dealing friend, he charged Watertown police officers who were trying to wrestle him to the ground. Dzhokhar then hopped into the carjacked Mercedes SUV and sped toward the group, running over his brother and dragging him.

The city's mayor, Marty Walsh, said he was glad to see the trial moving toward a conclusion.

"I am thankful that this phase of the trial has come to an end and am hopeful for a swift sentencing process," Walsh said. "I hope today's verdict provides a small amount of closure for the survivors, families, and all impacted by the violent and tragic events."

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2015/04/08/boston-marathon-bomber-tsarnaev-found-guilty-of-all-c

harges-a45599