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This image depicts the remains of Avianca Flight 203 which exploded, at 13,000 feet, on November 27, 1989. Pablo Escobar had ordered the plane to be bombed. His objective was to murder Colombian presidential candidate César Gaviria Trujillo. Although the candidate was not on the plane, 107 other people were. They all died. So did three people, on the ground, who were struck by falling debris.

The murder of presidential candidate, Luis Carlos Galán, shook the people of Colombia. A special task force was set-up to find—and apprehend—Galán's killer.

The murder suspect was Pablo Escobar.

What did Pablo's mother think now? Did she believe her son was responsible for the murder?

Not really:

*What hurt me most ... and I would have liked to have died then, was when he was on TV and they said how many millions they'd pay for Pablo's head. I asked him, "Did you see the news?"*

*"Yes, Mama, but don't believe that I did everything they say. I'm not that bad, and the first person I would tell what I do is you. Don't believe everything they say. I'm not a saint, but if they forced me to be bad, what can I do?"* (From interview included in "Pablo Escobar's Private Archive".)

Pablo's mother believed her son was not a criminal then. She never believed it, until the day she died.

Meanwhile, however, Colombia descended into a period of narco-terrorism. Unbelievable violence swept through the country. Jaime Gaviria, Escobar's confidante, remembers that time period, after the death of Galán, as a war against Escobar:

*The war against Pablo was terrifying. It was unbelievable. I mean society, the whole world. It was organized society. I'm talking about the Americans, the English, everybody took part in it, against Pablo. He put the whole world against him. That was Pablo's greatness - being able to fight the world.* (From interview included in "Pablo Escobar's Private Archive".)

Pablo Escobar, who was a very loving father to his own children, was accused of responsibility for more than 4,000 murders. Victims included policemen, journalists and judges. Luz Maria, Pablo's sister, questions why it was all necessary:

*And speaking about the war with the police, I always asked myself why ... I think that was his big mistake.* (From interview included in "Pablo Escobar's Private Archive".)

Jaime agrees. How does one take-on the entire police force of a city? Pablo tried:

*How do you fight against policemen in a city? Killing policemen. But it wasn't only killing policemen. The important people were also prudent. Nevertheless, look back at what happened. Captains, Colonels, Generals. These words from Pablo are like a head stone: "I prefer a grave in Colombia than a jail in the U.S."* (From interview included in "Pablo Escobar's Private Archive".)

Escobar's campaign of terror caused the Colombia government to reconsider how to deal with this problematic citizen. They offered him generous terms if he would surrender.

Accepting those surrender terms, Pablo was "imprisoned" in a place of luxury—hardly a prison or even a place with bars—in his own territory of Envigado. Escobar was free to come and go, on that property, as he pleased.

He did give-up his gun, though ... or ... at least it appeared that way.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PABLO-ESCOBAR-NARCO-TERRORISM-Pablo-Escobar-Narcos>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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