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Athens trial journalist says he was tortured

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

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A Greekborn French journalist who said he came to Greece to collect evidence for a book dealing with the torture of political prisoners, told the Athens special military court today that he himself had been tortured by police interrogators.

Jean Starakis, aged 28, the son of a Greek naval officer killed during the war, was the last of the 34 defendants to testify at the Athens sedition trial today. He denied charges that he had planted several bombs in Athens last summer.

Starakis, who spoke through an interpreter in French, became angry when the court's president asked who had sent him to Greece. "For three days I was tortured to answer this question,"

he snapped. "I have had enough". The court had prohibited the reading of his statement making detailed allegations.

The Crown Prosecutor is expected to sum up his case tomorrow and make his recommendations for sentences. The sedition charge carries a maximum penalty of death.

Two of the chief defendants addressed the military tribunal today—Mr. George-Alexander Mangakis, assistant professor of penal law at Athens University, and Mr. Dionysios Karayorgas, professor of public economy, who lost the palm of his right hand in an accidental bomb explosion.

Professor Mangakis said the charges against him had been "concocted in the nightmarish labyrinth of the interrogation".