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## **Accused Taliban Member Appears at Hearing**

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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - A man accused by the United States of being a member of the Taliban and fighting against American forces appeared before a military review panel at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, an official said Saturday.

The unidentified detainee, whose age was not released, was accused of training at the al-Farouq terrorist camp in Afghanistan and fighting on the front lines against U.S. and coalition forces, said Lt. Gary Ross, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

The man surrendered while on the front lines, Ross said. During his appearance Saturday, he made a statement, but officials declined to release it. The U.S. government has refused to release transcripts of detainees' statements or give detainees' stated reasons for not attending tribunals.

So far, more than 100 have declined to attend hearings, out of the 318 whose cases have been heard. One man has been released, a Pakistani who was sent home.

The panels are to determine whether some 550 detainees from more than 40 countries should continue to be held as enemy combatants, a classification that offers fewer legal protections than prisoners of war get.

The tribunals are separate from military commissions that began with pretrial hearings in August. The first commission trial is scheduled in December.

Two other cases were heard Saturday. A 27-year-old Yemeni man was accused of helping al-Qaida through a Pakistani-based missionary organization allegedly used to mask activities of terrorist groups including al-Qaida.

The detainee was arrested by Pakistani police, Ross said. Military officials said he declined to attend his hearing.

Another detainee who refused to appear was a 21-year-old from Aden, Yemen, accused of traveling to Pakistan in 2001 and staying at various al-Qaida guesthouses, Ross said. He was arrested at a guesthouse in 2002 along with a number of high-ranking al-Qaida members, Ross said.