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Ex-Gitmo Detainee Acquitted

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A former Kuwaiti detainee at Gitmo was acquitted of all charges on Wednesday.

A Kuwaiti citizen who spent nearly three years imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay was acquitted Wednesday of all terrorism-related charges by a court in Kuwait.

Nasser al-Mutairi, who was released in January only to face trial at home, was acquitted of joining foreign military forces without permission, harming Kuwait by serving the interest of a "foreign country" and undergoing illegal weapons training.

The charges do not name any particular country or force.

"The lawyer always told me I am innocent, and I expected to be acquitted," said al-Mutairi, 27, who had been free on bail.

Eleven other Kuwaitis are still being held at Guantanamo Bay, along with hundreds of others from more than 40 countries. Al-Mutairi said the court's decision would be "good news" for them and that they too deserved to be acquitted.

Al-Mutairi's lawyer, Mubarak al-Shimmiri, had previously argued that Kuwait lacked jurisdiction to try the Kuwaiti national.

According to al-Shimmiri, "He was acquitted because nothing could be proven against him," adding that the case against al-Mutairi was drawn fully from U.S. investigations.

Al-Shimmiri praised Kuwait's judiciary for not being influenced by the "political" side of the case.

When his trial began in April, Al-Mutairi said he went to Afghanistan for charity work in 2000, before the U.S.-led war began in that country.

None of the alleged crimes took place in Kuwait and they were not punishable in Afghanistan at the time they were allegedly committed, al-Shimmiri said.