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Lawyer to Tell EU Lawmakers that Guantanamo Prisoners' Plane Stopped in Germany, Turkey

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BRUSSELS , Belgium (AP) - A lawyer for six GuantanamoBay prisoners planned to testify Tuesday that his clients were extradited from Bosnia on a plane that took off from Germany and also stopped in Turkey, picking up other detainees along the way, an EU Parliament official said.

The six men -- all Algerian-born, but four of whom were Bosnian citizens -- were arrested in October 2001 after U.S. intelligence indicated they planned to attack U.S. and British embassies in Sarajevo and a U.S. military base in the northeastern city of Tuzla.

In a well-documented case, Bosnian authorities handed them to U.S. authorities in a secret operation in 2002, just a few hours before the country's human rights court was to order their release for lack of evidence. They are now in the U.S. military detention center in GuantanamoBay.

Stephen Oleskey, lawyer for the six, was scheduled to speak Tuesday to a European Parliament committee investigating allegations that U.S. intelligence agents interrogated terrorism suspects at secret prisons in eastern Europe and transported some on secret flights that passed through Europe.

Oleskey wrote in a letter to the committee that he planned to focus on links to a U.S. military base in Ramstein, Germany and the circumstances of the extradition, a parliament official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the proceedings.

The lawyer also wrote that the plane his clients were on also landed at a Turkish military airport, where more than two dozen Afghan detainees were brought on board, the official said.

Michel Picard, former president of Bosnia's human rights court, and Srdjan Dizdarevic, president of the country's branch of the Helsinki Committee, were also to participate in the hearing.

Clandestine detention centers, secret flights through, or from, Europe to countries where suspects could face torture, would all breach the continent's human rights treaties.

The committee has heard more than 50 hours of testimony from individuals who say they have been kidnapped by U.S. agents, imprisoned and tortured, as well as from human rights activists and EU officials.