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Actors Who Played Guantanamo Bay Prisoners in Film Detained by British Agents

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LONDON (AP) - British security agents detained two actors who played former terror suspects at the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, police said Tuesday.

Authorities stopped actors Rizwan Ahmed and Farhard Harun for questioning under anti-terror laws Thursday after they returned to London's Luton airport from the Berlin Film Festival where their film, "The Road to Guantanamo," premiered and won an award.

Ahmed -- a 23-year-old Briton of Pakistani descent -- said a police officer swore at him, wrestled a cell phone out of his hands when he tried to call his lawyer and asked him if he had become an actor to further the Islamic cause, according to a statement he issued through Reprieve, a human rights group based in London.

He could not immediately be reached for comment, and the statement said he would not be making further comments on the incident. He also said he would not be making a complaint.

Police also stopped Shafiq Rasul and Ruhel Ahmed, two Britons who were held in Guantanamo Bay. Neither was available for comment on Tuesday.

The actors had been stopped because they were traveling with Guantanamo detainees -- not because of the film -- according to Bedfordshire police spokesman Des Lawless. He said all of the men were released within an hour.

He said if any of the men make a complaint about allegations of mistreatment, the police will investigate. Some of the former Britons who were held at the U.S. prison camp have been prevented from obtaining a passport under special authority known as the Royal Prerogative. Some have to request special permission to travel abroad.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke last year refused former Guantanamo detainees Martin Mubanga and Feroz Abbasi permission to hold British passports even though they're British.

Melissa Parmenter, one of the film's producer's, described the men's treatment to The Associated Press as "outrageous."

The film -- for which Britain's Michael Winterbottom and Mat Whitecross were awarded the best director prize at the Berlin Film Festival -- tells the story of three men from the central town of Tipton who were imprisoned at the U.S. prison camp for two years without charge.

It is the first feature film for both Ahmed and Harun.

All of Britain's nine detainees have been released from the prison camp, however some 490 men accused of links to Afghanistan's Taliban regime or the al-Qaida terror network remain. Many have been held for nearly four years without charge.