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Kuwaiti Released From Guantanamo Arrested

DIANA ELIAS
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KUWAIT CITY (AP) - The first Kuwaiti released from Guantanamo Bay was taken into government custody after he arrived home Sunday, according to a Kuwaiti lobbying for the release of detainees from this Gulf state.

Nasser al-Mutairi, 26, who was captured in Afghanistan three years ago, was not handcuffed when he disembarked from the government-owned plane. He embraced his brother and was led away by officials.

Al-Mutairi will be "spending the night with the government," Khaled al-Odah, who heads a group that has been lobbying on behalf of Kuwaiti detainees, told The Associated Press. It was unclear if or when al-Mutairi would be allowed to return home. Journalists were not given access to his arrival.

Eleven other Kuwaitis remain in the U.S. Navy camp for suspected terrorists in Cuba.

Al-Mutairi's family insists he was teaching English in Afghanistan, not supporting that country's ousted Taliban regime or the al-Qaida terrorist network responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

Al-Odah, al-Mutairi's younger brother, Nayef, and several Kuwaiti government officials greeted the government-owned private plane after it returned the freed Guantanamo detainee to an airport, the identity of which was not revealed.

"Thank God I saw my brother," Nayef told the AP in a telephone interview. "I am very happy. He looked fine and he was smiling."

His sister, Maha, said the whole family was waiting excitedly by the phone at their home in the southern Kuwait City suburb of Sabahiya for a call from her freed brother.

"We just want to hear his voice so that we can make sure he is here," Maha al-Mutairi said.

Families of the other Kuwaiti prisoners have said the men were doing charity work in Afghanistan or in neighboring Pakistan when they were detained after the U.S.-led war against the Taliban and the al-Qaida network following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Some 550 detainees from more than 40 countries are being held at Guantanamo Bay as "enemy combatants." Some 200 men have been released, many from countries friendly to the United States, such as Britain, and some were ill.

Kuwait is a major ally of Washington in the Gulf. But many Muslim fundamentalists in this oil-rich country oppose the presence of U.S.

military here as well as American foreign policy. Scores have died fighting along Muslim extremists in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Chechnya.

Human rights groups and defense attorneys complain the definition "enemy combatants" is vague and doesn't afford the legal protections assured a prisoner of war. Some men have been held without charge for more than three years.

The U.S. government had argued that enemy combatants held on foreign soil were not entitled to hearings in U.S. courts. But it established the tribunals after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that prisoners can challenge their detention.

However, human rights advocates have called the reviews a sham, in part because prisoners are not allowed defense attorneys and are not advised of all evidence against them.