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Man Whose Home Was Bombed Faces Tribunal

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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - A prisoner whose home was bombed by U.S. forces because a high-ranking Taliban member was suspected to be inside spoke Thursday before a military review tribunal in Guantanamo Bay, an official said.

U.S. forces bombed the 43-year-old man's home in November 2001, said Lt. Terry Green, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals. The military did not reveal who the Taliban official was or whether anyone was hurt in the bombing.

Green said coalition forces were fired upon during the detainee's capture, though he did not specify whether the prisoner did any shooting. The prisoner has been held at the U.S. naval outpost since June 2002, Green said.

It was unclear what the detainee said at his hearing, which no press attended. The military has not released transcripts of the tribunals, which are meant to establish whether more than 550 prisoners at Guantanamo are correctly detained as "enemy combatants" or should be freed.

The classification includes anyone who supported the ousted Taliban regime or the al-Qaida terrorist network - a definition human rights group complain is vague and affords fewer legal protections than prisoner-of-war status.

The Associated Press filed a Freedom of Information Act request more than a month ago to obtain transcripts of testimonies.

At tribunals the media has attended, many prisoners have denied allegations against them. Journalists are not allowed to stay on the base indefinitely to cover all the tribunals.

There are only 22 tribunals left, Green said. So far, two men have been ordered released or transferred off the base as non-enemy combatants, while 232 others have been ordered to remain held.

No lawyers are present during the proceedings, and prisoners are only told unclassified portions of the allegations against them.