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## **Algerian Man Appears Before War Tribunal**

The latest Guantánamo captive facing war-crimes charges is an Algerian with four amputated fingers who is suspected of being an al Qaeda bomb maker.

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GUANTANAMO BAY NAVY BASE, Cuba -- An Algerian merchant accused of shopping for triggers for remote-control bombs on behalf of al Qaeda made his debut at the war-crimes court Thursday. He inexplicably had only one finger remaining on his left hand.

Dressed in western attire, Sufyan Barhoumi, 32, looked calm and overall fit during a 15-minute appearance at his Military Commission, which alleges he is an al Qaeda conspirator.

The United States does not allege a specific link to the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks but accuses Barhoumi broadly of conspiring to attack civilians, commit murder and destroy property.

The Algerian's charge sheet claims he was captured in a guest house in Faisalabad, Pakistan, in March 2002 among a multinational band of al Qaeda trainees who had fled the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

He and other U.S.-held captives allegedly got \$1,000 from an al Qaeda ringleader called Abu Zubaydah to buy parts for remotecontrol explosive devices.

"Mr. Barhoumi maintains his innocence on all charges," said Army Capt. Wade Faulkner, his Pentagon-assigned lawyer, who has called the Pentagon's war crimes process "inherently unfair."

Faulkner also said he was not at liberty to explain how his client lost much of his left hand and said he was not allowed to say whether he arrived at Guantánamo Bay with more than six fingers.

Asked whether any of the fingers were amputated here, the chief prosecutor, Air Force Col. Moe Davis, replied: "Not to my knowledge."

During the hearing before the presiding officer, Navy Capt. Daniel O'Toole, Barhoumi accepted Faulkner as his lawyer but also asked for defense attorney Lee Foreman, who previously helped Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant fend off a rape charge. Foreman has agreed to help in the case and is seeking security clearances, Faulkner said.

The Army captain described his client as the eldest of four sons born to a small private law practitioner in Algiers, who has three years of high school and has worked as a clothing salesman, street vendor, farmworker and a grocery store employee.

Barhoumi's hearing was delayed a day after receiving mail from the Red Cross, dated Dec. 23, that said his father had died.

Faulkner had sought a delay until April 3, when the Military Commissions are scheduled to hold their next sessions.