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Yemen Says U.S. to Release 7 Guantanamo Detainees

Reuters
July 31, 2005

SANAA - The United States has agreed to hand over to Yemen seven Yemenis detained at the U.S. Guantanamo Bay base, the Arab state's foreign minister said on Sunday.

Abubakr al-Qirbi told Reuters that Yemeni authorities received official notification about the handover, but that a date had yet to be set.

Qirbi said Washington had told Sanaa there were 107 Yemenis among about 510 detainees at the U.S. base in Cuba.

Another official said a Yemeni security team was finalizing arrangements for the transfer of the seven men and would also help establish the identities of all 107 detainees.

The Pentagon said earlier this month it had released seven Guantanamo prisoners to their home countries, including Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Sudan.

Yemen has joined the U.S.-led war on terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. It has cracked down on al Qaeda-linked militants after attacks at home, including the bombing of a U.S. warship in 2000 and an attack on a French supertanker in 2002.