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11 Yemenis to be Released from Guantanamo

United Press International

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SANAA, Yemen -- The United States has agreed to hand over to Yemen 11 of its nationals detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The pro-government daily September 27 quoted a Yemeni official source as saying Thursday contacts are under way to complete arrangements for the handover, which is expected to take place within a few days.

The source said the 11 prisoners expected to be released are among 107 Yemenis held in Guantanamo. They will be submitted to Yemeni law, whereby they will be interrogated and tried in case of evidence of their involvement in terrorist activities and crimes punishable by law.

He said contacts through diplomatic channels have been going on constantly with the U.S. side to follow up the case of the Yemenis still detained by the American forces.

In another development, independent sources said more than 50 people accused of al-Qaida membership and released following dialogue to help them repent and return to the right path of Islam, have been re-arrested.

There was no information on the reasons behind their re-arrest.

The United States rounded up hundreds of suspected al-Qaida members during its 2001 war in Afghanistan that toppled the pro-al-Qaida Taliban regime. The prisoners were later transferred to the U.S. base in Cuba.