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Detainee Who Claims Abuse to Return to Britain

By [RAYMOND BONNER](#)

LONDON — A [Guantánamo](#) detainee whose case has drawn international attention because of his assertions that he was tortured while in [C.I.A.](#) custody is scheduled to arrive back in [Britain](#) on Monday, according to his lawyers and British officials.

The detainee, [Binyam Mohamed](#), has been in American custody for nearly seven years, held and interrogated first in Pakistan, then for 18 months in Morocco, and also in Afghanistan, before being sent to the Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, prison camp.

His return will end an 18-month standoff between the United States and Britain, which has been seeking his release since August 2007.

It will not, however, end an effort by Mr. Mohamed's lawyers and some members of Parliament here to obtain photographs that Mr. Mohamed said were taken by an American woman and showed his injuries, according to notes of his conversations with his lawyer, who provided the notes to The New York Times.

At the time of his arrest, in April 2002, American officials said that Mr. Mohamed, who has a brother and two sisters living in the United States, was part of a conspiracy to detonate a dirty bomb on American soil. But all charges against him were dismissed. "I am confident he will be home tomorrow," said his lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, "and it is not a moment too soon."

A British government official who declined to be identified confirmed Mr. Mohamed's expected return but would give no other details. On Friday, the British Foreign Office issued a statement that final arrangements were under way for his release.

American Embassy officials in London refused to comment on the situation, saying that as a matter of policy they could not talk about Guantánamo releases that had not yet happened. A spokesman for the Pentagon, which oversees the prison camp, would not comment about his release or his claims of abuse. The British government began concentrated efforts for Mr. Mohamed's return in August 2007, but it was rebuffed by the Bush administration.

One stumbling block was the restrictions to be put on him when he was released. The British government said it could not impose the conditions wanted by the United States, which included electronic surveillance and an official control order, because they violated British and European human rights laws.

Mr. Mohamed has agreed to voluntary restrictions, including a lifetime prohibition on travel to the United States, according to people who have seen the restrictions. Those people spoke on condition of anonymity,

and they gave no more details about the restrictions because the terms of Mr. Mohamed's release had not been publicly disclosed.

Mr. Mohamed was born in Ethiopia, but his family fled for political reasons in the early 1990s. He moved to Britain in 1994, where he was unemployed and into drugs, his lawyer said. In 2000, he went to Afghanistan to get off drugs — the [Taliban](#) had a strict policy against domestic drug use — and to decide whether it was a “good Islamic country or not,” he told his lawyer.

American officials have said that he attended military training camps in Afghanistan. Mr. Mohamed has said he was training to fight in support of Muslim insurgents in Chechnya, not to carry out terrorist attacks in the United States.

After the fighting broke out between the United States and the Taliban in late 2001, Mr. Mohamed fled Afghanistan. He was caught in Karachi, Pakistan, trying to get on a plane to Britain with a false British passport. He said his had been lost.

After several months of interrogation in Pakistan, he was secretly taken on a C.I.A.-chartered plane to Morocco, according to the plane's flight logs and British officials. The C.I.A. has repeatedly declined to say if he was ever held in Morocco and has steadfastly denied that Mr. Mohamed, or anyone else in its custody, was ever tortured.

At a news conference here last week, his military lawyer, Lt. Col. Yvonne Bradley of the [United States Air Force](#), said that what Mr. Mohamed endured at Guantánamo “makes [waterboarding](#) look like child's play.”

For 18 months, “I never went outside, I never saw the sun, not even once,” Mr. Stafford Smith quoted Mr. Mohamed as saying during one of their many sessions at the prison camp. Immediately after each interview, Mr. Stafford Smith would write down what he had been told and submit it to the military for clearance.

Mr. Stafford Smith provided The Times with a 25-page memorandum of his interviews with Mr. Mohamed, which had been cleared by the military.

Interrogators in Morocco showed him pictures of various leaders of [Al Qaeda](#) and asked him if he knew them, Mr. Stafford Smith said. Mr. Mohamed insisted he did not.

One night, three men in black masks and military trousers came in, he told his lawyer. “One stood on each of my shoulders and the third punched me in the stomach,” Mr. Mohamed said.

Other times, he said, they tied him to a wall, his feet just off the floor. They brought in women, “naked or part naked,” he said.

On one occasion, while tied to the wall, his clothes were taken off, he said. Then a man took a scalpel and made cuts on his chest. Then they cut his genitals, Mr. Mohamed said.

“I suffered the razor treatment about once a month,” Mr. Mohamed said, according to Mr. Stafford Smith's declassified notes of the interview.

In January 2004, five soldiers wearing face masks and Timberland boots dragged him from his cell and

stripped him. He heard an American accent. There was a woman in the group. She took pictures of his wounds with a digital camera, he said. He was taken to the American-run [Bagram](#) Air Base in Afghanistan, his lawyer said, where more photographs were taken. One of the soldiers told him it was “to show Washington it’s healing,” Mr. Mohamed told his lawyer.

Mr. Mohamed’s lawyers have been trying to obtain the photographs and documents, which they say support Mr. Mohamed’s allegations. A British court has said that classified documents support Mr. Mohamed’s assertions, but the American and British governments have objected to their release.

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