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AROUND THE WORLD

Trials called unlikely for Guantanamo 5

Items compiled from Tribune news services

February 22, 2004

LONDON, BRITAIN -- Five Britons due to be released from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are unlikely to face trial in Britain because of a lack of evidence, legal experts said Friday.

Lawyers said that any information gleaned from the men during interrogation at the base would be inadmissible because they had been denied attorneys. The men are expected to be flown home within weeks.

The lawyers said it was questionable whether British courts had jurisdiction over alleged criminal acts in Afghanistan, unless terrorism or treason could be proved.

"There is likely to be a huge problem of the lack of any evidence," said Michael Birnbaum of the Human Rights Committee of the Bar Council.

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