

EUROPE NEWS

Germany issues arrest warrants for 13 suspected CIA agents

By DPA

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Munich - German prosecutors on Wednesday issued arrest warrants for 13 people believed to have been working for the American CIA in connection with the 2003 abduction of German national.

The 13 suspects were crew and passengers on an aircraft which flew the victim - Khaled el-Masri - from Macedonia to Afghanistan.

El-Masri was detained on the Macedonian-Serbian border in December 2003 and was then reportedly flown to Kabul in a plane which arrived from the Spanish airport at Palma de Mallorca.

A Muslim of Lebanese origin who lives in southern Germany, el-Masri says he was imprisoned by US agents in Macedonia and tortured in Afghanistan, then released. He said the Americans accused him of being a terrorist.

A parliamentary inquiry into the case has been told that then US ambassador to Germany, Daniel Coats, informed Berlin officials on May 31, 2004 that el-Masri had been mistakenly detained, then freed.

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