

The Telegraph

Pilot held in UK 'trained hijackers'

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AN Algerian pilot arrested by British police was an instructor for four of the hijackers involved in the World Trade Centre attacks, a court heard today.

The allegation against Lotfi Raissi was made by prosecutor **Arvinda Sambir** [sic. **Arvinder Sambei**] during an extradition hearing held after Raissi, originally detained on September 21 by Metropolitan Police anti-terrorism detectives, was re-arrested at the request of the US authorities.

The FBI wants Raissi, 27, to be extradited to the US for questioning over his alleged role in the attacks, which left more than 6,000 dead.

Raissi, who was living in Colnbrook, Berks, close to Heathrow airport, was re-arrested on an international warrant after being held under the Terrorism Act 2000. Scotland Yard said the international warrant came from the US.

Raissi, who is no longer being held under the Terrorism Act, appeared at Bow Street Magistrates Court, central London.

Anti-terrorist officers also arrested Raissi's French-born wife Sonia, 25, last week but she was released without charge on Tuesday. His 29-year-old brother, Mohamed Raissi, of Hounslow, west London, also detained but was later released without charge. Student Abu Imard, 44, who was detained in Birmingham by anti-terrorist police on September 21, remains in custody.

District judge Nicholas Evans ordered that Raissi should remain in custody to appear again on October 5. His solicitor, Richard Egan, said in a statement: "He adamantly denied any involvement in the recent appalling tragedy and is confident he will be absolved of all involvement."

[Investigator Note: In Feb. 2008, Raissi was exonerated of ALL charges and the Court of Appeals found that the Crown Prosecution Service (Arvinder K. Sambei) and the police had presented false evidence to the courts.

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See Sean O'Neill (2008-02-15). "Judges condemn police lies after 9/11 attacks that ruined pilot's life". London: The Times.]