

Weather
Air tonight, lows in
20s Sunny tomorrow,
highs in 40s.
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Iran 'savagery' is revealed

Associated Press

The freed American hostages have told of brutal treatment by their captors, and former President Carter has accused the Iranians of "unbelievable acts of criminal savagery."

Mr. Carter, in Plains, Ga., after returning from Wiesbaden, Germany and greeting the returned Americans, said today the 52 were forced "one by one," to run the gauntlet of jeers and kicks before being permitted to leave Iran for freedom.

The brutality included beatings, strip searches, solitary confinement, a mock execution and Russian roulette.

Mr. Carter called the Iranian acts described by some of the former hostages the work "of animals and not of man."

He said one of the hostages told him he had been kicked on the way to the airport but then added, "Well, that's all in the past."

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"They tried to convince them we were the villains, that we had robbed and cheated the Iranian people for 35 years," Mr. Carter said.

"And even after month after month, they [the Iranians] still took pleasure in abusing them psychologically, even physically."

The former president called this "savagery against absolutely innocent hostages."

"Even when the hostages were being loaded on the plane, they carried them to a fairly distant point by bus and made them walk through a gauntlet, one by one, without even the protection of the whole group. Jeering and sometimes even kicking to try to debase the Americans leaving Iran," Mr. Carter said.

Malcolm Kalp, an economic adviser accused of being a CIA agent by his captors, told his family in a telephone call he was beaten and spent 374 days in solitary confinement because he repeatedly tried to escape.

Lisa Kalp, 17, the ex-hostage's daughter, said from Massachusetts that he was "full of hatred and hostility toward them [his captors] right now."

Kalp's 12-year-old son, Andy, was so excited about his father's release that the boy broke out in hives.

Michael J. Metrisko, a political officer from Olyphant, Pa., said he was held in solitary for 8½ months, and Michael C. Kennedy Jr., the economic counselor from Washington, said he and others were "lined up in their underwear, guns to their heads, for a mock execution."

Marine Sgt. Johnny McKeel told his parents in Balch Springs, Texas, that an Iranian guard

knocked out his tooth and an interrogator said his mother had died. He said he was told if he wanted to go to the funeral he had to give the Iranians information, but that all he gave was name, rank and serial number.

After talking with her son, Wynona McKeel lashed out at the captors.

"They're stupid, barbaric people. They're fanatics . . . They say they're religious, but they don't worship the same God I do," she said angrily.

Asked if their son had any special requests for food when he returns home, Mrs. McKeel said he had told her, "Mom, don't cook any lamb or rice."

Elizabeth Montagne, a secretary freed with four other women and eight black hostages three weeks after the embassy takeover, said in the United States that the militants forced her to play Russian roulette in an attempt to get infor-

mation.

Richard Queen, a consul freed in July because he was suffering from multiple sclerosis, said he and others were held nearly five months in a windowless warehouse basement, and that during a "Gestapo raid" armed guards in white masks stripped them to their underclothes and searched them.

The 52 remaining hostages were freed Tuesday, 444 days after their capture, and flown to West Germany. Mr. Carter, whose administration negotiated their release in the final days of his presidency, spent 80 minutes with them yesterday as a special envoy from President Reagan. In an airport statement before flying back to the United States, he said:

"Our Americans in Iran were mistreated much worse than previously revealed. The despi-

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Carter accuses Iranian captors of acts of 'savagery'

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cable acts of barbarism which were perpetrated on our people by Iran can never be condoned. Iran, in my judgment, and the people responsible in Iran for this criminal act ought to be condemned by all law-loving decent people of the world. It's been an abominable circumstance that will never be forgotten."

50 men and two women spent their first day in freedom making telephone calls home, "taking showers and telling stories," as Marine Sgt. Paul E. Lewis of Homer, Ill., put it. Some

came out on the balconies of the third-floor wing of the Air Force hospital here, enjoyed the sparkling sunshine and chatted with hospital personnel.

The "decompression" process was well under way, a State Department spokesman reported. Doctors were examining the returnees. Psychologists met with them to assess any mental damage done by the treatment given them and their readjustment needs. Officials were discussing their experience with them.

There was no word yet when they would be sent on to the United States for the long-awaited

reunions with their anxious families. State Department spokesman Jack Cannon said yesterday they would remain in Wiesbaden for "perhaps several days" but were free to leave whenever they wished. But he said they were advised to delay their departure.

One relative ignored the government's urging that the families not come to West Germany so as not to interfere with the reorientation process. Alyssa Keough of South Burlington, Vt., 19-year-old daughter of the superintendent of the Tehran American School, arrived by plane from the United States yesterday. She was told her fa-

ther, William Keough, was resting and would contact her today to try to arrange a meeting.

Mr. Carter's private meeting with the freed Americans was "emotional to the point of awkwardness" and so moving that a photographer was asked to stop taking pictures at one point, an aide to the former president said.

Spokesman Jody Powell said that as Mr. Carter shook hands with each one, "Tears were welling in everybody's eyes—the hostages and Carter's."

The ex-president described the meeting as one of "the most moving and gratifying" acts in

his life. He said the freed Americans applauded when he told them he had frozen between \$11 billion and \$12 billion in Iranian assets after the embassy takeover but returned less than \$3 billion to get their freedom.

"Terrorism has proved not to pay," he said.

But back in the United States, criticism of the agreement to return all of Iran's frozen assets was developing, and this was heightened by the reports of Iranian brutality. There were suggestions that repayment of frozen Iranian assets, cancellation of legal actions against Iran and other unfulfilled provisions of the agreement be halted.

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