

Terry Nichol's Filipina wife goes back to Philippines



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The Filipina wife of Oklahoma bombing suspect Terry Nichols flew to her hometown in the central Philippines on June 1 but was whisked away to a secret destination.

Marife Torres and her 21-month-old daughter Nicole Lynn were met at Cebu airport by local police who escorted her and her American security aides to her home.

They were later taken to an undisclosed place.

Home was a small shack that leans up against a lumberyard in Cebu City, 580 km (360 miles) south of Manila.

Torres arrived in Manila earlier on June 1 and immediately took a connecting flight to Cebu. She refused to talk to journalists and was shielded from the media by American escorts.

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had placed Torres under protective custody to question her about Nichols, charged along with former army buddy Timothy McVeigh in the April 19 bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma.

More than 160 people died in the blast, described as the worst extremist attack in U.S. history.

Nichols served in the army with McVeigh in the late 1980s. Both have since been linked to right-wing militia groups.

Torres' parents refused to speak to reporters but her brother, Michael, said Nichols was a nice man and he did not believe he was involved in the bombing.

"I don't want to be interviewed on this matter about Terry Nichols," Eduardo Torres, Marife's father, angrily told reporters.

"You can ask Terry Nichols about it, not me," said Torres, a police inspector in Cebu.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said Torres, who had been released from U.S. protective custody, was not a suspect in the Oklahoma bombing.

"She has been cooperating with U.S. investigators and the U.S. may ask for further cooperation from her in the future." Siazon said.

Nichols met Marife Torres in 1989 when he came to the Philippines responding to a magazine advertisement for mail-order brides.

They were married in Cebu in November, 1990, after a brief courtship.

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