

Turner goes home, seeks private life

CHICAGO (AP) — Jesse Turner, held captive in the Middle East for 4½ years, returned to American soil with his family on Friday, still striving to maintain privacy in the most public of homecomings.

The 44-year-old mathematics professor landed at O'Hare International Airport with his Lebanese-born wife, Badr, and their 4-year-old daughter, Joanne, on a flight from Frankfurt, Germany.

"He smoked a pack of cigarettes, drank a couple beers and ate a bunch of food," said Ray Hipp, who sat in front of the Turners during the flight.

Hipp said that during the flight he told Turner, "Welcome to America," and that Turner did not respond. "He was very quiet," said Hipp, of Chicago.

Because Turner had requested privacy, he and his family were taken from the United Airlines flight to an undisclosed location to await their evening flight home to Boise, Idaho, airline spokesman Joe Hopkins said.

While the family settled in for the layover in Chicago, officials in Boise were completing final preparations for a welcome home cele-



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Jesse Turner, accompanied by his wife, Badr, and daughter Joanne, prepare to board a flight to Chicago from Frankfurt, Germany.

bration.

"The community is anxious to give a heartfelt welcome home," said Boise spokesman Brian Whitlock. Turner grew up and went to school in Boise, where his mother and stepfather still live.

Workers transformed the steps of the Idaho Statehouse into a huge reception area, where Gov. Cecil D. Andrus and Mayor Dirk Kempthorne were on the schedule for brief remarks before a program

of music, fireworks and the ringing of church bells.

After Turner's release Tuesday, he was taken to the U.S. Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany, for a round of medical tests and State Department debriefings before being put on his way home to Idaho.

Turner made no comments to reporters on his departure from Wiesbaden, before leaving Frankfurt, or on his arrival in Chicago.