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CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Klaus Barbie

JESSICA SAVITCH: Klaus Barbie, the Nazi war criminal known as the Butcher of Lyon, is back in France tonight. He was expelled by Bolivia last night, hustled from his jail cell under a blanket and flown to France.

At the airport in Lyon, police arrested the daughter of a concentration camp victim. She was carrying a rifle.

Jim Bittermann reports.

JIM BITTERMANN: Klaus Barbie, the man they call the Butcher of Lyon, was brought back under wraps tonight to the French city where he earned his reputation. Tonight, under heavy security, Barbie was taken to Mauroc (?) prison in Lyon, the same prison where 40 years ago the ex-Gestapo officer was not a prisoner, but Hitler's man in charge.

The 69-year-old Barbie had been living in exile in Bolivia, protected by the government there until yesterday, when he was expelled to French Guiana, and where French officials have the authority to arrest and charge him with crimes against humanity.

During World War II, Barbie was head of the Gestapo in Lyon, France. He's blamed for the deaths and deportations of thousands of French Jews and resistance fighters. His most well-known victim, the head of French resistance, who was tortured until he died.

But there are many here still alive who remember well Barbie's crimes. Lys Leserva was crippled for life by his torturer. Her husband was deported by Barbie. He never came

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back from the death camps.

For the past 11 years, Nazi hunters Serge and Vietta Clarsveld have been trying to bring Barbie back from Bolivia for trial.

SERGE CLARSVELD: We were not surprised that -- there is always a surprise when a long story comes to an end and when it is a happy end.

VIETTA CLARSVELD: I think this trial will extremely be important because it will be trial based on documents and showing the work and the crimes committed by the political police.

BITTERMANN: The preparation for a trial of the ex-Nazi could take as much as a year. It also could turn into a considerable political spectacle, since Barbie has always threatened that if he were ever brought to trial, he would tell what he knows about Nazi collaboration with French officials, some of whom are still in public positions today.

For those of his victims still alive, though, the trial of Klaus Barbie cannot come soon enough.

SAVITCH: There's a professor at Wayne State University in Detroit who says he was a U.S. counterintelligence officer in Germany in 1948 and worked with Barbie. Erhard Devringhaus says Barbie was a paid informant. The U.S. paid him for informationon Nazis. And he says those payments made possible Barbie's flight to South America.

Devringhause, at his home near Detroit today, recalled those postwar years. He talked of Barbie's work for U.S. intelligence and of Barbie's war crimes.

ERHARD DEVRINGHAUS: This guy was after all the resistance. He was primarily fighting the underground in France. He caught hundreds of them. And if they didn't talk or cooperate with him, he would string them up on their thumbs in the basement until they were dead. And he said there is a mass grave outside of his headquarters that must have 200 people in it.

On two occasions, two agents of the French government, of the Surete Deuxieme Bureau, they called that at that time -- I don't know whether it's still the same -- came to me and to be interrogated by them as to the whereabouts of Klaus Barbie. They had heard that we knew something about him. And I was ordered by my own headquarters to -- not to say anything that we knew anything about him.

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