

British sailors tell of Iran captivity

by UPI

CHIVENOR - The British navy personnel held by Iran for 13 days said Friday they were blindfolded, bound and threatened unless they admitted being in Iranian waters.

The 15 sailors and marines told a news conference at the Marines Base at Chivenor, North Devon, they had been subjected to "constant psychological pressure" and agreed to their captors' wishes in order to win their freedom, the Telegraph reported.

Fighting back was not an option, they said.

"If we had, some of us would not be here today, of that I am completely sure," Royal Marine Captain Chris Air said.

They said they were kept isolated at night most of the time, were subject to random interrogation and often lined up against a wall while weapons were cocked, making them "fear the worst."

Earlier, the head of the Royal Navy strongly defended the conduct of the personnel for showing "considerable dignity and a lot of courage," the BBC said.

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