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US 'dirty bomb' suspect charged

A US citizen held for more than three years on suspicion of planning an attack with a "dirty bomb" has been indicted on criminal charges in Miami.



Jose Padilla was arrested at Chicago airport in May 2002

Jose Padilla been under military arrest since 2002 and was one of only two US citizens designated an enemy combatant.

The Bush administration had resisted calls to try him in civilian courts, and last month a court upheld its right to hold Mr Padilla indefinitely.

The US Attorney General is to discuss the indictment at a news conference.

Mr Padilla was arrested at Chicago Airport in May 2002 on suspicion of planning to detonate a conventional bomb laced with radioactive material.

Reports say Mr Padilla has been charged with conspiracy to commit murder and aid terrorists.

Lawyers had challenged Mr Bush's right to hold Mr Padilla indefinitely as an "enemy combatant".

They argued that the president was exceeding his authority by denying such prisoners access to lawyers and courts.

But in September a federal appeals court overturned an earlier ruling that Mr Padilla should either be charged or freed.

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