

## **INS says Hussein stepson is arrested**

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### **Body**

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Federal agents have arrested a man they say is a stepson of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's, saying he flew into town yesterday to take flight training without a student visa.

Agents picked up Mohammed Nour Al-Bin Saffi, an employee of Air New Zealand, at a motel near Miami International Airport.

"We had information that Mr. Saffi was coming here for flight training," said Jim Goldman, an assistant director for investigations at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "He was arrested without incident on an immigration violation charge."

Saffi, 36, a New Zealand citizen, is charged with entering the United States without a student visa, Goldman said. Although the U.S. does not require citizens of New Zealand to obtain visas to enter the country, they must obtain visas to study or work.

Goldman said there was no evidence Saffi was connected to any terrorism group. Federal agents and published reports say he is Hussein's stepson, but Saffi denied any family tie to the Iraqi leader yesterday.

Last night, Saffi was taken to a detention facility, where he will remain pending a deportation hearing.

FBI Special Agent Judy Orihuela said Saffi flew from New Zealand to Los Angeles yesterday. He arrived in Miami in the afternoon and was arrested about 7 p.m.

Saffi was in Miami to take a four-day mandatory refresher course at Aero Service flight school, Goldman said.

New Zealand authorities identified a woman they believe is Saffi's mother, Samira Shahbandar, who was reported to have been married to Hussein after a relationship that began in the 1980s.

Saffi dismissed reports of his mother's marriage to Hussein as a rumor.

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