

Lebanon extradites three accused of rape in Egypt

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Sat, 2020-09-26 21:53

CAIRO: Lebanese authorities have handed over three of the accused in the case of the gang rape of a young woman in a hotel in Cairo, known as the Fairmont incident, to the Egyptian authorities.

A statement by Egypt's public prosecution stated that it had received a message from Interpol to arrest the fugitive suspects for the attack on an 18-year-old woman at the Fairmont Nile City hotel in Cairo in 2014.

The public prosecution confronted the defendants with film evidence of their crimes and a statement from the victim. The public prosecution asked the defendants about how the crime occurred and the role of each of them, as well as interrogating them about the method of their escape to Lebanon.

After Amr Hafez and Amir Zayed were arrested for a similar incident, the public prosecution investigated six other defendants.

Among the defendants was Nazli Karim, daughter of the actress Noha Al-Amrousy, and Ahmed Al-Ganzouri, the organizer of the Fairmont hotel party on the night of the crime.

At the end of last month, the Lebanese National News Agency announced that the Internal Security Forces Directorate received a letter from Egyptian Interpol containing the names of seven Egyptian citizens accused of raping a woman who were in Lebanon.

After investigation, it was found that five of the accused had visited Lebanese territory, two of them had left, and three were still in Lebanon. The Lebanese agency added that the defendants left the hotels without their bags in what appeared to be an attempt to escape the Lebanese security forces, who raided their place and arrested them in the town of Fatqa, 30 km northeast of Beirut, on Aug. 28.

Earlier, the Egyptian Public Prosecution ordered the detention of three suspects in pretrial detention for a period of four days pending investigation, and released three others in the event that each of them paid bail of 100,000 Egyptian pounds (\$6,338), and another with a guarantee of his place of residence.

The prosecution also brought the defendants to the forensic medicine office to determine the extent of their drug use, in addition to investigating the messages on their phones.

It is reported that one of the accused, A.T., is the son of a famous football coach. Egyptian media sites reported that investigation authorities renewed their contact with Interpol to arrest the son of a famous businessman, who is currently in London, because of information indicating his involvement in the case.

The case dates back to 2014, but became public at the end of July 2020 when social media accounts shared stories about Egyptian youths from wealthy

families luring a woman during a party at the Fairmont to a hotel room after they put a narcotic in her drink and filmed the incident. The prosecution began its investigation into the case at the beginning of August, after receiving a complaint from the National Council for Women, an Egyptian government institution that deals with women's affairs. The complaint included the woman's evidence and the testimonies of people who provided information about the incident.



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French tourists to return to EgyptEgypt prepares for Nile floods, warns citizens

[Lebanese security forces kill two members of armed group, sources say](#)

Author:
Reuters

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1601143346501931900

Sat, 2020-09-26 18:00

BEIRUT: The Lebanese security forces killed at least two militants during a heavy exchange of fire on Saturday with an armed group in northeast Lebanon, close to the Syrian border, security sources said.

Three members of the Lebanese security forces were also injured in the clash, which began after Lebanese forces raided a house in the Wadi Khaled area, where the group that was suspected of planning attacks was holed up, the sources said.

The group included Syrians and Lebanese, the sources said, adding that the scale of the clash, in which militants fired rocket propelled grenades, prompted the Lebanese army to cordon off the area.

The sources said the group included people linked to the militant Khaled Al-Talawi, who was killed earlier this month in a shootout with security forces. Four Lebanese soldiers were killed in that clash.

Talawi was described as a former member of the Daesh group and leader of a cell behind the killing in August of three people in north Lebanon.



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France backs Hariri bid to break Lebanon deadlock
France backs Hariri bid to break Lebanon deadlock

Car bomb kills 7 in northeastern Syria

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1601142364501851100

Sat, 2020-09-26 17:43

BEIRUT: A car bomb killed at least seven civilians in a Turkish-controlled area of northeastern Syria on Saturday, Syria's state-run news agency and a war monitor reported.

SANA said the blast went off at the southern entrance to the city of Ras Al-Ayn. Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters captured the area last October when Ankara invaded northeastern Syria to drive away Syrian Kurdish fighters from the shared border.

Ankara views the Kurdish fighters as terrorists for their links to a Kurdish insurgency inside Turkey. The fighters had however partnered with the US against the Daesh group.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Syria war monitor, said seven people were killed and ten of others were injured in the car-bomb explosion near the industrial area in the south of Ras Al-Ayn city.

No further details were immediately available.

Nearly half a million people have been killed in Syria's nine-year war which began as a popular uprising against the rule of Syrian President Bashar Assad and turned into an armed insurgency following a brutal crackdown.



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'What's a UN journalist?': New film on Syrian refugees sparks ire for lack of Arab casting US to provide \$720 million Syria aid, \$108 million for South Sudan

[Egypt launches campaign to promote nature reserves and ecotourism](#)

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Sat, 2020-09-26 20:26

CAIRO: Egypt has launched a campaign to promote nature reserves, raise environmental awareness and support ecotourism.

The Ministry of Environment said the campaign was in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Ministry of Information, as well

as with the participation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Integration of Biodiversity in Egyptian Tourism project funded by the Global Environment Facility.

The campaign was launched from the Ras Mohamed Nature Reserve in South Sinai in the presence of Minister of Environment Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Khaled Al-Anani, and Minister of State for Information Osama Heikal, in addition to 30 ambassadors and representatives from foreign embassies in Egypt.

It aims to support ecotourism, encourage visits to reserves and help people to learn about the local population, including their culture and heritage. The ministry said the campaign would implement an integrated awareness and communications plan to support responsible and sustainable environmental tourism, and work toward pumping new investments into this sector in a way that supported the sustainability of natural resources.

Fouad said the campaign would run for three years and promote ecotourism through a website and social media accounts, and that there would be a new visitor center in the Ras Mohamed and Fayoum reserves. People from the local community would also be involved through sustainable job opportunities.

The minister said that natural reserves were receiving the attention and support of the political leadership, therefore the reserves were developed and managed according to international standards in order to preserve them, maximize economic, social and cultural development and preserve Egypt's rich biological diversity in a way that supported the environment and national economy by attracting more investment in the ecotourism sector.

Heikal said the campaign was an opportunity to clarify the message that tourism did not undermine efforts to develop and preserve the environment, including nature reserves, as an attractive source for tourism.

Al-Anani said there was ministry cooperation in many fields to revitalize tourism, which is one of the pillars of the national economy, including the Ministry of Environment's decision to reduce fees for day trips to reserves in the governorates of South Sinai and the Red Sea, and fees for daily cruises until the end of next March.





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Egypt fitness startup eyes new market in coronavirus protective gear
COVID-19 kills an entire Egyptian family after a wedding

[Iran and Iraq commit to boosting border cooperation and trade](#)

Author:

Associated Press

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1601121195130138800

Sat, 2020-09-26 11:25

DUBAI: Iran and Iraq on Saturday pledged to improve border cooperation and boost trade between the two neighbours that has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic.

"We remain committed to increasing political, economic and cultural

cooperation between the two countries,” President Hassan Rouhani told visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, according to a government website.

Hussein called for implementing bilateral accords in areas including border cooperation, transportation and trade between the two countries, the website said.

The pandemic has led to border closures and disruptions to trade and visits by millions of pilgrims and tourists.

Iran, which shares a long border with Iraq, has been the epicentre of the virus in the Middle East but the spread has also accelerated in Iraq.

Iran is one of Iraq’s biggest trading partners. Both countries’ economies are in crisis. Iran continues to suffer from US sanctions and Iraq’s economy has been battered by years of wars, sanctions and an extremist insurgency.

Tehran also used to meeting to denounce the US military presence in the region.

“We consider the presence of American forces in the region, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan or the southern states of the Persian Gulf, to the detriment of security and stability in the region,” Rouhani said.



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