

[UK archives reveal government unease at Mandela mediation over Lockerbie](#)

Fri, 2022-12-30 14:38

LONDON: Documents released by the National Archives in the UK have revealed that Tony Blair's government believed Nelson Mandela was "unlikely to be helpful" in mediation efforts with Libya in the aftermath of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, but that he could be used "against" Tripoli in the event of negotiating compensation.

At a meeting in London in 2001, former South African President Mandela told Blair that the UK was "wrong to hold Libya legally responsible for the Lockerbie bombing" following the conviction of Abdelbaset Al-Megrahi earlier that year.



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[Israel indicts soldiers for trying to](#)

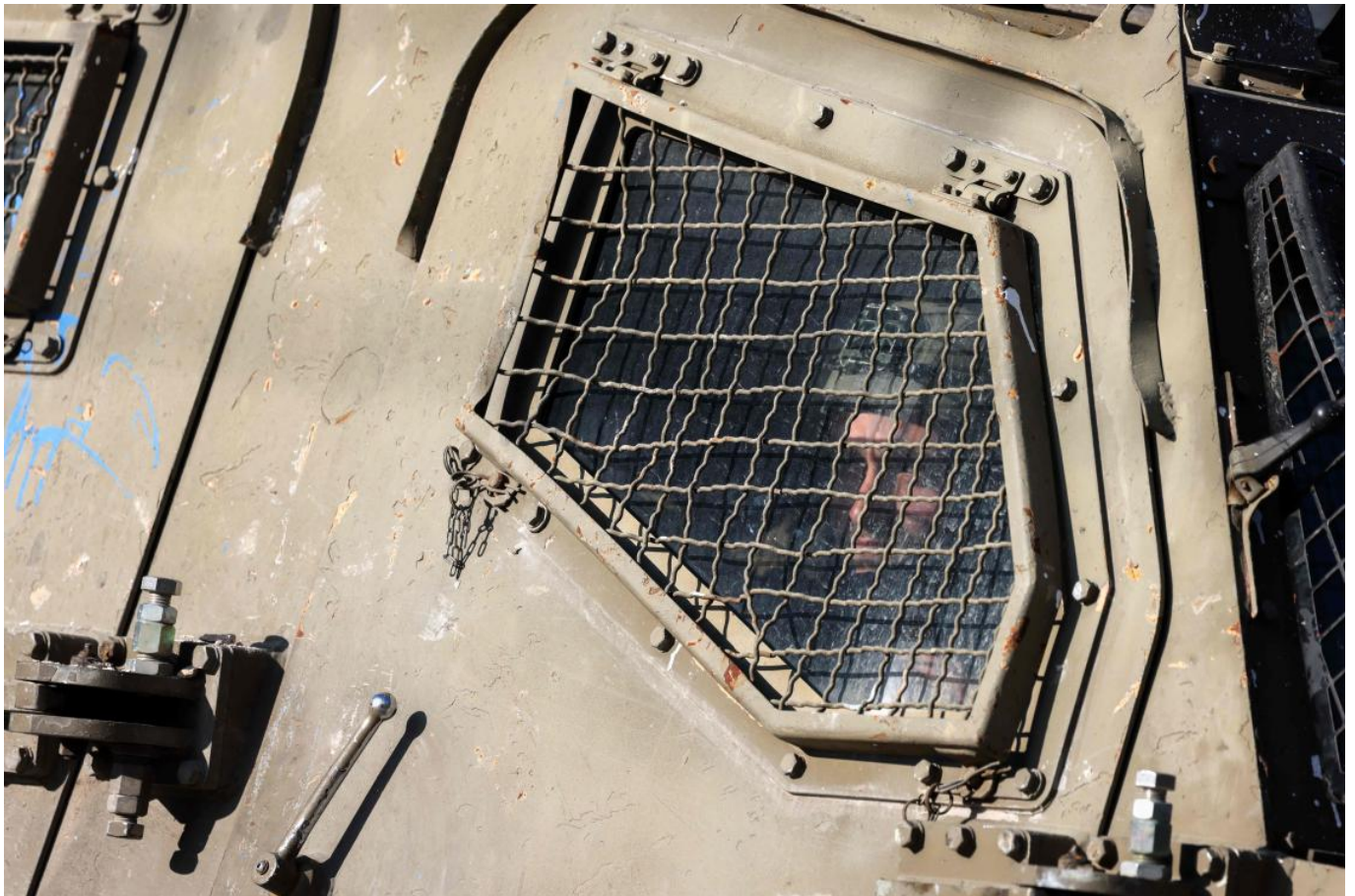
[bomb Palestinian home](#)

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Fri, 2022-12-30 10:32

JERUSALEM: Israel's military said its prosecutor has filed indictments against two soldiers who allegedly hurled an explosive device at a Palestinian home in the occupied West Bank, a rare instance of Israeli troops facing serious charges over an offense against Palestinians.



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[Palestinian forces urged to unite against Netanyahu regime](#)

Thu, 2022-12-29 22:47

RAMALLAH: A senior Palestinian political leader has called for a united struggle against the incoming government in Israel, labelling it racist and extremist, and warning that its declared goal is to "deepen and consolidate an apartheid regime."

Mustafa Barghouti, secretary-general of the Palestinian National Initiative Movement, urged all Palestinian forces to join together in an immediate bid to boycott and isolate the new Israeli leadership.



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[Al-Azhar's greeting to Copts provokes anger](#)

Thu, 2022-12-29 22:36

CAIRO: Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, Sunni Islam's oldest and foremost seat of learning, confirmed that controversy and disagreement over congratulating the Christian brothers on the occasion of Christmas has been renewed with the approaching end of each year.

The Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism said that this debate was settled by Al-Azhar Al-Sharif a long time ago.



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[Egypt's president backs bigger private role in line with IMF demands](#)

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Thu, 2022-12-29 12:21

CAIRO: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on Thursday approved a document outlining 62 economic activities the state will withdraw from and turn over the private sector, a cabinet statement said.

The document's approval was required by the International Monetary Fund, which this month approved a 46-month, \$3 billion financial support package for Egypt.

The policy aims to give the private sector a greater role in helping to grow the economy, create jobs and increase investment and exports, the statement said.



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