

Four dead in Israel stabbing, car-ramming, assailant shot

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BEERSHEBA, Israel: A man wielding a knife stabbed several people and ran over another in southern Israel on Tuesday, killing four, in one of the deadliest attacks in the country in recent years.

The assailant, who Israeli media have identified as a Bedouin man who previously tried to join the Daesh group, was shot dead by armed locals following the attack in the southern city of Beersheba, police said.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett promised to crack down on "terrorists" following the bloodshed that began shortly after 4:00 p.m. (1400 GMT) and unfolded at a petrol station and on a street outside a nearby shopping center.

Liraz Zrihan, a 25-year-old who was washing her car at the petrol station when the rampage began, said she saw the attacker holding a long knife, "like a sword," while spinning around and looking for people to stab.

According to police and the Magen David Adom emergency medical responders, the assailant stabbed one woman at the gas station, used his car to run over a man in his sixties on a bicycle, and stabbed several others outside the shopping center before he was shot.

Police have not officially identified the suspect.

But multiple Israeli media outlets reported the attacker was Mohammed Abu Al-Kiyan, a former schoolteacher in his thirties from the Bedouin community of Hura, near Beersheba, who was previously convicted over seeking ties with Daesh and preaching extremist ideology.

In 2015, Israel arrested six Bedouins, including four teachers, for allegedly supporting Daesh.

Bennett, who met with his internal security minister and police chief after the attack, praised those who shot the alleged assailant, saying they "showed resourcefulness and courage and prevented further casualties."

"Security forces are on high alert. We will work hard against terrorists. We will pursue them as well and those who help them," the Israeli premier tweeted.

The United Nations' envoy for Middle East peace, Tor Wennesland, condemned the violence, which he said was "the seventh stabbing attack against Israelis this month."

"I am increasingly alarmed by the continued violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel that is taking place on a daily basis," the UN envoy said in a statement.

Stabbing and car-ramming attacks are common in Israel.

But much of the recent violence has occurred in east Jerusalem, the Palestinian sector of the city annexed by Israel after the 1967 Six Day War, or in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since the same year.

Attacks resulting in multiple Israeli fatalities have also been rare in recent years, while Israel's south, including Beersheba, has largely been spared such violence.

The region has seen unrest involving Bedouin, who are part of Israel's 20 percent Arab minority and who have clashed with security forces, typically over land disputes.

Mansour Abbas, the leader of Israel's Raam party that backs Bennett's government and was widely supported by Bedouin voters in elections last year, denounced the attack.

"The Raam party condemns the criminal attack in Beersheba and sends its condolences to the families of those killed," said a party statement posted on his personal Facebook page.

The local council in Hura also condemned the incident as a "criminal and terrorist act."



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[Bedouin](#)

[Naftali Bennett](#)

Palestinian assailant dead in Jerusalem stabbing attack: policeIsrael:
Palestinian shot, killed in alleged stabbing attempt

Community and conflict: How Turks and Syrian refugees are learning to live together

Author:

Tue, 2022-03-22 23:43

ANKARA: The latest UN-backed study into Syrian refugees living in Turkey and the thoughts of the two communities was released on Monday.

Supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Syrians Barometer-2020: A Framework for Achieving Social Cohesion with Syrians in Turkey was released under the leadership of Prof. M. Murat Erdogan from Ankara University.

The survey is the third of its kind conducted since 2017. Its findings are based on face-to-face interviews with 2,259 Turkish citizens in 26 cities and 1,414 Syrian households in 15 cities.

The report showed that the level of social acceptance of Syrians is high despite some ongoing concerns.

“Turkish society’s acceptance of Syrians has largely been transformed into ‘toleration’ rather than an understanding of establishing a practice of living together,” it said.

HIGHLIGHTS

New study shows Turkish acceptance of migrants is rising, but problems remain.

80% of Turks say they provided cash or other assistance to Syrians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Concerns about jobs losses and rising crime were lower than before, and the COVID-19 pandemic had boosted solidarity and neighborly ties between the two groups, it said.

“This can be explained by the normalization trend that created a habit among Turkish society regarding the presence of Syrians, while the pandemic also shifted social priorities toward making ends meet,” Erdogan told Arab News.

About 80 percent of Turks said they provided cash or other forms of assistance to Syrians during the pandemic.

But Turkish people living in border towns with a high density of Syrian refugees were less positive, saying they considered them an ongoing source of problems.

There remains misunderstanding about how Syrians generate income, with most Turkish people claiming the refugees rely on assistance from the Turkish state. But those who are financially supported by an EU-funded assistance program account for only about 44 percent of the general Syrian population in Turkey.

While concerns remain about the deterioration of public services, loss of jobs, rise in criminality and corruption, the proportion of Turks who said they had experienced personal harm from Syrians in the past five years was 11 percent.

“When I conducted a field study in the southeastern province of Sanliurfa, Turkish residents said they were harmed by the presence of Syrians because they were speaking loudly at night and not sleeping at the right time,” Erdogan said.

“Turks are more inclined to perceive Syrians through the prism of identity concerns.”

According to the report, 55 percent of Turks are against Syrians opening their own businesses, saying it would generate unfair competition.

A total of 77 percent of Turks said they did not think Syrians had cultural similarities with the Turkish. But Syrians considered themselves socially very close to Turks, the report said.

Turkey is home to about 3.7 million Syrians under temporary protection, which represents about 5 percent of the Turkish population. Many of them said they were not settled in the country.

In the latest report, the proportion of refugees saying they did not plan to return to Syria was 77.8 percent, up from 51.8 percent in 2019 and 16.7 percent in 2017.

Similarly, 90 percent of the Turks surveyed said they thought that at least half of the Syrians would stay in Turkey.

Asked where the Syrians should live, 85 percent of Turkish respondents suggested they be housed in camps, secure zones or designated cities instead of integrating with local communities.

“Turks prefer an isolated lifestyle for Syrians in Turkey,” Erdogan said.

While Turkey’s Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu recently announced that the country had granted citizenship status to more than 193,000 Syrian refugees, 71 percent of the Turks polled said they were against giving citizenship to Syrians, while about 17 percent said Syrian children should not be given an education.

A total of 46 percent of Syrians said they had been integrated into Turkish society but would prefer the status of temporary protection rather than citizenship so as not to lose their benefits under the EU support programs. The survey also showed that at least one member of each Syrian family could speak Turkish.

More than 88 percent of the Syrians polled said they had not faced any problems regarding access to health services during the pandemic, but 64 percent said it had negatively affected their financial situation.

The study also found that there had been an increase in the proportion of Syrians moving on to a third country to 49 percent in 2020, from 34 percent in 2019 and 23 percent in 2017.

Despite the high proportion of Turks saying they had extended a helping hand to Syrians during the pandemic, 67 percent of the Syrian respondents said society's perception of them had not changed since the health crisis.

In its recommendations, the report said that Turkey's policies on Syrians that are based on temporariness should be revised as establishing a peaceful Syria remained an unlikely prospect in the short and medium terms.

It said also that more needed to be done to find viable employment for Syrians.

"Agriculture, animal husbandry and the industrial sector all offer opportunities to create employment," it said.

It added that civil society should assume a greater role in aiding integration and that a financial support program needed to be developed to allow local authorities to help Syrians living within their jurisdictions.

It also said the international community should share the responsibility of providing financial support and resettlement options for Syrians.



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Syria using shell companies to bypass sanctions, report claims
Turkey says Russia and Ukraine nearing agreement on 'critical' issues

[Abu Dhabi crown prince says UAE keen on energy security, global markets balance](#)

Tue, 2022-03-22 22:11

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince spoke with Azerbaijan's president about the global energy market in light of the Ukraine crisis, and stressed that the UAE is keen on energy security globally and the stability and balance of energy markets, Emirates News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan also discussed with Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Aliyev, bilateral relations, especially in fields of economy, trade, energy, in addition to a number of regional and international issues of common concern.

The Abu Dhabi crown prince also spoke with Japan's prime minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday about the Ukraine crisis and also assured him that the UAE is keen to maintain energy security and keep global markets stable.

Sheikh Mohammed's comments come a day after he visited Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh to meet with Egypt's president Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.



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Abu Dhabi crown prince arrives in Egypt to meet president Abu Dhabi crown prince to Japanese PM: UAE keen to maintain energy security, global markets stability

[Social media calls by Lebanese citizens for prosecution of central bank governor](#)

Author:

Tue, 2022-03-22 22:05

DUBAI: Growing numbers of people in Lebanon are taking to social media to call on the country's judiciary to prosecute Riad Salameh, the governor of the country's central bank, over his alleged involvement in financial irregularities and corruption.

The hashtag "Sa'at Al-Haqeeqa Riad Salameh," which translates as "Moment of Truth for Riad Salameh," began trending on Twitter, as hundreds of users called for him to be dismissed from his position, arrested and impeached. They demanded that he be punished for allegedly dispersing public funds and covering up for corrupt politicians involved in the misappropriation of depositors' funds and life savings.

Salameh denies the allegations of wrongdoing. He recently told Reuters: "I ordered an audit and it was proven that public money was not the source of my wealth."

Twitter users also urged the judiciary expand its efforts to investigate the criminal and financial activities that led to the current financial crisis in Lebanon, as a first step toward holding the politicians and others who are

responsible or it to account.

One Twitter user posted a photo of Salameh dancing during a Brazilian carnival and commented with just one word: "Wanted."

Someone else posted a message that asked the question: "What are you afraid of and who is behind you?"

Another read: "It's a shame how you all are protecting each other and neglecting people's basic rights. What kind of a country are you planning for?"

Many others social media users posted or retweeted photos of Salameh and asked him to provide information required for criminal investigations.

"Almost every single depositor who has lost his or her life savings and deposits wants Salameh behind bars," said an activist and pro-bono lawyer who spoke to Arab News on condition of anonymity.

"Set political affiliations or pressures aside; Salameh is involved and should be held accountable in his capacity as central bank governor. He should be questioned and it is up to the judiciary to decide whether or not he's corrupt or guilty."

On Monday, Mount Lebanon's attorney general, Judge Ghada Aoun, charged Salameh with illicit enrichment. He was charged in absentia after he failed to attend the hearing.

Judge Aoun had ordered the arrest of Salameh's brother, Raja Salameh, on Friday in connection with the same case. Raja's lawyer said any allegations of illicit enrichment and money laundering were unfounded, describing them as "media speculation without any evidence."

Meanwhile, a strike in Lebanon's banking sector that began on Monday continued on Tuesday in protest against judicial decisions issued against several leading banks. They condemned the rulings as arbitrary and noted that some lawsuits filed by groups of activists defending depositors are related to their requests to recover US dollar funds that have been withheld by the banks since 2019.

The Lebanese Banks' Association announced that the financial institutions would be open again on Wednesday.



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Lebanon's Salameh to sue Bloomberg after US denies talk of sanctioning him
Lebanese judge charges central bank governor with illicit enrichment

[Modest turnout in Jordan's municipal, governorate elections](#)

Tue, 2022-03-22 21:15

AMMAN: Polling stations across Jordan closed on Tuesday for municipal and governorate councils elections, which saw a modest voter turnout of less than 30 percent.

The Independent Election Commission said that 1.356 million people had cast

their ballots by 7:00 p.m. local time, out of 4,602,135 eligible voters.

It added that voter turnout across the country reached 29.64 percent.

Jordan's capital Amman, which has a population of more than 4.5 million, saw the lowest voter turnout with around 15 percent, according to the IEC. The highest turnout was in the northern city of Ajloun, which has a population of around 195,000 people.

The IEC, the national body overseeing elections in Jordan, said it would study the reasons for the capital's apathy in elections.

Amman has always seen the lowest voter turnout in Jordanian parliamentary and municipal elections, with observers attributing it mainly to tribalism playing a less influential role in the capital and other metropolitan cities.

Arab News spoke to people in Amman who did not participate in the elections. They said their disinterest in the polls had to do with the failure of former representatives to bring about the desired changes whether in parliament or municipal councils.

Suha Faraj, 32, said candidates ran for elections "only to achieve some personal gains."

"They just want to be there in parliament or municipalities to serve themselves. They are not there to benefit the country but to secure a job and prestige for themselves," Faraj said.

The absence of fully-fledged partisan activity and programs in elections was the main reason for 42-year-old Adnan Abu Taha boycotting the polls.

"There is no encouraging atmosphere for participation," he said. "We before had 'so-called' representatives in parliament or municipalities, but they just benefited themselves. That is the result of the absence of fully-fledged political parties with a well-defined agenda."

"Why voter turnout is low in Amman and high in other cities is simply because there is still a strong influence outside the capital. People outside Amman just vote for their relatives regardless of their programs or agenda," political commentator Khaled Qudah said.

A total of 4,644 candidates, including 846 women, registered for the 2022 municipal and local council elections.

The IEC said that around 5,000 people, including 100 international figures, monitored the elections.







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Jordan's King Abdullah to visit Ramallah next week
Jordanian Royal Court rejects 'inaccurate' claims surrounding King Abdullah's accounts