

Egyptian police officer killed during fire exchange with 'terrorist group'

Tue, 2020-04-14 22:04

CAIRO: A police officer was killed during a raid by Egyptian security forces at which they exchanged fire with a "terrorist group" at Cairo's El-Amiriya neighborhood, state television reported Tuesday.

A police officer from Egypt's National Security Agency has been reportedly killed during the shootout.

Egyptian forces said that they raided a terrorist hideout in the district, and have killed all of its elements.

Police have warned residents of the neighborhood to keep their windows closed and to seek safety indoors.

Private television stations broadcast what they called footage of the shooting. Gun shots were heard and the neighborhood was seen in complete darkness, in what appeared to be a power cut.

"Initial investigations show that the suspects were planning to carry out terrorist acts," said one of the security sources, who spoke to one of the channels.

Explosives and weapons were found with the suspects, the security source added.

The Egyptian public prosecutor has ordered an investigation into the incident.

Egypt has imposed a nighttime curfew in efforts to limit the spread of coronavirus.



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Son of Egyptian coronavirus victim doctor recalls terror of mob attack
Militants kill 8 Egyptian police in North Sinai

[Vessel boarded by armed men in Gulf of Oman released – UKMTO](#)

Tue, 2020-04-14 20:25

DUBAI: A vessel that was boarded by armed men at anchor in the Gulf of Oman on Tuesday has been released, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said.

“Vessel and crew are safe,” it said in an updated advisory, urging all vessels in the vicinity to remain vigilant.

UKMTO had earlier said the vessel had been at anchor around three nautical miles (nm) off Ras Al Kuh.

Maritime security firm Dryad Global separately tweeted that a Hong Kong-flagged vessel had been released. It earlier said the ship had been at anchor waiting to approach Jubail in Saudi Arabia.

“At 12:48 UTC the vessel was shown to be underway towards the Iranian coastline. At 14:28UTC the vessel was shown to be stationary at a position 4nm off Mogh-e Qanbareh-ye Kuh Mobarak,” Dryad’s report said.

It said the vessel was “highly likely to be the vessel of concern”, but added

that it was “unclear whether the vessel is in distress or is being assisted by Iran in some way”.

LIVE SITUATION THREAD START 2020-04-14 [#00TT](#)

CHINA-FLAGGED TANKER “SC TAIPEI” (IMO 9175535, 22,377 DWT)
PURPORTEDLY FELL UNDER ARMED ATTACK IN GULF OF OMAN AT 12:48 UTC BY
IRANIAN NAVY / IRGC. VESSEL WAS SAILING TO JUBAIL, SAUDI ARABIA.
NOW OFF IRANIAN COAST. VIA [@GlobalDryad pic.twitter.com/FZPGn5ESVJ](#)

– TankerTrackers.com, Inc. (@TankerTrackers) [April 14, 2020](#)



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[vessel](#)

Oman tells all government agencies to cut spending by at least 10%
Oman calls out companies forcing workers to go on unpaid leave due to coronavirus

Israel rivals resume unity govt talks with two-day deadline

Author:

Guillaume Lavallée | AFP

ID:

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Tue, 2020-04-14 15:24

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his main rival Benny Gantz held new talks on forming an emergency unity government Tuesday, with a deadline less than two days away.

A deal would give Israel its first fully functioning government since December 2018, stability that could prove crucial as it confronts the coronavirus pandemic.

The two men had been negotiating prior to a deadline that expired at midnight Monday night, but jointly asked President Reuven Rivlin for a two-day extension to finalize details.

They met in Jerusalem on Tuesday morning, after releasing a joint statement late Monday hailing "significant progress."

There have been repeated claims of progress in coalition talks since an inconclusive March 2 election, Israel's third poll in less than a year, but a deal has remained elusive.

Tuesday's talks ended without a breakthrough but the two men committed to meet again after the Jewish passover holiday ends at sunset on Wednesday, with a view to reaching a deal by a midnight that evening.

As Israel's unprecedented political deadlock has persisted, there have been widespread calls for an interim national unity government to combat the novel coronavirus, which has infected more than 11,500 Israelis and killed 117. Gantz, a centrist ex-military chief, has squared off against the veteran right-wing prime minister in three elections since April last year. Neither has earned enough support from voters and potential coalition partners to form a government.

In the March 2 election, Netanyahu's Likud emerged as the largest party but Gantz's Blue and White won the backing of most of the country's 120 MPs. Gantz was therefore given a 28-day mandate to try and form a government. But deep divisions within the anti-Netanyahu camp meant his chances of forging a stable coalition were always remote.

In a surprise move last month, Gantz was elected speaker of parliament and effectively stopped seeking to form a coalition with himself as prime minister.

He called for an alliance led by Netanyahu for a defined period, allowing Israeli politics a rare moment of unity as it stares down an unprecedented health crisis.

In the process, Gantz broke his political party in two, with more than half his allies in parliament leaving to join the opposition rather than ally with the deeply divisive Netanyahu.

Since then talks have stalled over a number of key issues.

Forming a government involves distributing ministerial portfolios and agreeing a political roadmap for the country.

A major source of tension has been the choice of a justice minister who will be tasked with overseeing the corruption case against Netanyahu.

Disputes have also emerged over the nomination of a defense minister, including speculation that Gantz, a former army chief, may want the job.

Policy toward the Palestinians, notably Netanyahu's stated desire to unilaterally annex the strategically important Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank, has also reportedly caused friction.

"Netanyahu, this is our moment of truth. It's either a national emergency government or a senseless fourth round election, costly and unnecessary in this hour of crisis," Gantz said on Monday night.

"History will not be forgiving toward leadership that shirks its responsibility at this critical point of time."

In office since 2009, Netanyahu is Israel's longest-serving premier and the first to be indicted while in office.

The premier denies charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust, filed against him in January.

Netanyahu critics have charged that he will stop at nothing to make the indictments disappear, including pushing for a fourth election in the hope of gaining a parliamentary majority to push through a law granting him immunity from prosecution.



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[Benjamin Netanyahu](#)

[benny gantz](#)

[israeli elections](#)

Israel tightens quarantine in Jerusalem to halt virus spread
Israeli president rejects request for coalition extension

Bahrain sets up coronavirus ICU in military hospital car park

Author:

Reuters

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1586872435166635400

Tue, 2020-04-14 13:02

DUBAI: Bahrain has converted the multi-story car park of a military hospital into a 130-bed intensive care unit for patients with COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus, and plans to set up four more field ICUs.

The island state reported 161 new infections, most of them among foreign workers, the health ministry said on Tuesday, taking its total of infections to 1,522 with seven deaths.

The number of cases recorded in the six Gulf Arab states has surpassed 16,500, with more than 100 deaths, as most countries stepped up testing after witnessing a rise in cases among low income foreign workers.

At the makeshift ICU at the Bahrain Defense Force Hospital in Riffa, south of the capital Manama, each bed is equipped with a ventilator. Authorities said they plan to raise capacity to 500 beds once other field units are set up across the country.

Dubai, an emirate in the United Arab Emirates, has also said it was planning to set up field hospitals to cope with any surge in cases.

Bahrain is one of the few Gulf Arab states that has not imposed a curfew or locked down areas to curb the spread of the virus and its national carrier still operates some flights. Like its neighbors, it has closed schools and most public venues.









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Gulf Air to repatriate stranded Bahrainis from Iran

Abu Dhabi families to get aid through new government fund

Author:

Tue, 2020-04-14 14:39

DUBAI: Families in Abu Dhabi struggling because of the coronavirus pandemic can expect support from the emirate's Authority of Social Contribution (Ma'an) to help them defray costs on education, food supplies, health support and basic needs.

"We will now use these contributions to provide support to those most in need and, while the situation is dynamic, we will endeavor to prioritize the most deserving families and individuals so they are receiving timely assistance to help them through these difficult times," Salama Al-Ameemi, director general of Ma'an, said.

Families needing immediate relief can contact the special helpline 800-3088 or the microsite [togetherwearegood.ae](#), which was created particularly for the endeavor.

"The sheer number of financial and in-kind contributions that have been pledged show our residents' desire help each other through the biggest health and economic challenge of a generation," Al-Ameemi said.



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Abu Dhabi extends closure of entertainment sites
Abu Dhabi government urges public to report suspected coronavirus cases