

Bakgrundsfakta

Här är några autentiska tidningsartiklar som berör ett terrordåd som din karaktär är medveten om. Det utfördes 17 november 1997 av Gamaa al-Islamiya utanför Hatshepsus dödstempel (se bilden). 68 personer, varav 58 turister dödades. Terroristerna ville få egyptiske shejken Omar Abdel Rahman frigiven. Han sitter på livstidsfängelse i Usa för bombattentatet mot World Trade Center i New York 1993.

Attentatet ledde till ekonomisk katastrof för Egypten. Redan tidigare hade turister dödats i terroristattacker, som 18/4 96 då 17 greker dödades i Kairo och 18/9 97 då sex tyska turister dödades utanför Egyptiska museet i Kairo, efter den här attacken stoppades dock nästan all turism i flera år till Egypten, och landet som är mycket beroende av den hårdvaluta turisterna tillför landet (näst största inkomstkällan, efter Zueskanalen) gick in en lågkonjunktur. Det fick till följd att dels gjorde regeringen väldigt många saker för att öka säkerheten för turister, som kraftigt ökat antal turistpoliser och dels fick många Egyptier upp ögonen för hur viktiga den industrin är för landet. Terrorismen fick ett kraftigt bakslag popularitetsmässigt. Gamaa al_islamiya hade redan attentatet förlorat de flesta av sina anhängare i strid, eller så satt de i fängelse (mellan 17500-3500 st), och efter attentatet var det inte många kvar. De värvar numera mest via internet (<http://www.almurabeton.org>).

Även om det fortfarande finns oroshärdar i landet som vissa delar av norra Egypten (Naga Hammadi distriktet i Qena provinsen) och mellersta Egypten med Faijum, så är en överväldigande majoritet av landets befolkning nu överens om att aldrig skada turismindustrin.



Terrorists attack tourist bus in Luxor Egypt

Egypt, Local, 11/17/1997

A group of terrorists attacked a tour bus in in Luxor (upper Egypt), a popular tourist region. Sources said that police forces battled the terrorist group, killing all six of the attackers.

So far, 63 persons have been reported killed and 26 injured injured and delivered to Luxor Hospital today. The victims of the incident included two Egyptians, in addition to Swiss, Japanese, German and French citizens.

One of the terrorists was killed during the incident while the other five were killed during a shootout with the police force.

Interior Minister Hassan El-Alfy and Minister of Health Dr. Ismail Salam traveled to the site of the incident.

Luxor represents the core of Egyptian tourism and receives 80% of the Egyptian tourist volume.

Japanese Luxor victims' bodies flown home

Egypt, Local, 11/24/1997

The bodies of Japanese tourists who were killed in the Luxor massacre last week arrived home yesterday.

The coffins were accompanied by the victims' relatives, who had flocked to Egypt over the past week to pay their last respects at Hatshepsut temple, the site of the worst attack on tourists in Egypt's history. Al Ahrarm daily said today.

Police crack down on terrorist group

Egypt, Local, 12/19/1997

Egypt's state security authority stated that they killing two leading terrorists and arresting 11 fugitive terrorists in separate crackdowns on hideouts in Alexandria, Minya, and Gharbia governorates over the last week, security sources said yesterday.

They said a policeman was also killed when gunmen hiding in fields opened fire on the police forces trying to arrest them in the village of Al-Maghala in Minya governorate, 50 miles south of Cairo.

Police returned fire, killing suspected militant Hamed Galal Abolela, the sources said, adding that another terrorist was injured but managed to escape.

In another raid, police killed suspected militant Munir Mostafa Abdel Hafez in Tanta in Gharbeia province some 63 miles north of Cairo, the sources added.

Police also arrested two of his followers, the sources said. In a third police raid, Hussein Abdullah Abdel Maleh, was arrested in the northern city of Amreya. Security officials said all those killed and arrested were members of Egypt's largest terrorist group of Gamaa Al-Islamiya (Islamic group).

Egypt's security forces started an ambitions plant to uproot terrorism following a terrorist attack in Luxor's Hatshepsut temple that killed 62 people, including 58 foreigners last month, Al-Akhbar daily said.

Mount Lebanon's Mufti: Luxor's accident is not Islamic

Lebanon, International, 11/21/1997

Dr. Mohammed Ali El-Gouzo, the Mufti of Mount Lebanon, has urged the mass media not to relate Moslems and the criminals who committed Monday's attack on tourists at Luxor to preserve the reputation and history of Islam. El-Gouzo said that this terrorist action can be traced to the treacherous action where it satisfies Moslem's enemies, the Zionists, and serves their aim of damaging the Islamic reputation abroad to justify their fight against Islam. All these can lead us to the assumption that Israel is behind this action, especially because of its timing, which coincides with Egypt's recent stances against Doha and related issues, said the clergyman.

El-Gouzo added that the terrorist action is a betrayal of Islam since what happened at Luxor was against Moslem teachings, indicating that Moslems do not attack unarmed guests that have no intention of doing us harm.

He also said that the violent criminal action that happened at Luxor is against the Islamic mission in the world, thus it reflects badly on all those who work in Islamic missions abroad.

El-Gouzo stated that this criminal action hurts the principals of Islam and is an attack against its morals.

Luxor terrorists trained in Afghan camps

Egypt, Local, 11/25/1997

The terrorist Megdhat Mohammed Abdel Rahman, the only member of the terrorist group that was killed after committing the Luxor massacre to be identified, was trained in the Afghan refugee camps, a security source said yesterday. Abdel Rahman, and other five terrorists shot dead 64 people, including 58 tourists in Hatshepsut temple last Monday. The six terrorists were killed in a shootout with police forces after the attack. MENA quoted the source as saying that Abdel Rahman was among a group of 111 militants who were sought by other Arab countries in connection with terrorist activities. The source said the group left the refugee camps in Afghanistan after the Taliban movement took power in Kabul, and headed to Pakistan where they were planing to move to Arab states.

To: Mubarak

From: CIA

Mr. President,

I would like to let you know, that the entire intelligence community regrets deeply the unfortune of your family. I have to let you know, however, that our intelligence sources indicate that al-Gamaa al-Islamiyya is planning more grief for your family, and instability in Egypt.

After consultation with the National Security Council, I would like to offer our help officially to crack down on the Islamiyya. We believe that our agents can train your intelligence officers, and they can assist in their upprehending. I would like to know whether you are interested.

*Deputy Director on Operations,
CIA*

Gamaa Islamia: Luxor attack carried out without approval of leaders

Egypt, Politics, 12/2/1997

The Gamaa Islamiya (Islamic Group) in Egypt described what had happened in Luxor as random murders that contradict the rules of the Islamic jurisdiction and the policies of the group.

The Gamaa Islamiya issued its monthly report bearing the title Al Murabetoun (Beholders) which included articles reflecting the group's viewpoint toward the Luxor attack carried out on November 17 by 6 members of the militant faction of the Gamaa, which led to the death of 58 tourists and 4 Egyptians together with the death of the assailants.

The report expressed regret for such a high number of victims and confirmed that the assailants carried out the attack without the approval of any of the Gamaa's leaders.

The Gamaa called on all members of the group inside and outside Egypt to exercise more self control so that they might not lose their lives, stressing the that the struggle should be only with the government and does not give anybody the excuse to murder the innocent.

Egypt takes tough line on terrorists, but which ones?

Amil Khan Middle East Times staff, april 5 2001

On April 1, the Egyptian government warned of a "terrorist attack" but observers were left wondering who exactly the terrorists might be.

Despite a three-year lull in armed Islamist violence, Egyptian Interior Minister Habib Al Adli told reporters in the coastal city of Alexandria that "terrorism tries at all times to prove its presence and there are possibilities that such an attack will be carried out." He went on to add that the Egyptian security services "will be completely ready to deal with any element which thinks it is capable of carrying out an attack, no matter what kind."

The minister said, "We are ready to use maximum effort and show maximum vigilance."

Armed Islamists led a campaign to topple the government of President Hosni Mubarak in the 1990s, but the crack down against them was ruthlessly efficient.

Many leaders of armed groups such as Al Gamaa Al Islamiyya and Islamic jihad either died in shoot-outs with security services, fled the country or ended up in jail facing death sentences.

The last major attack took place in November 1997 when militants killed 58 foreign tourists near the city of Luxor in Upper Egypt.

The government has stressed that the kidnapping of German tourists two weeks ago and the knifing of a Japanese woman at the Pyramids were not politically motivated.

This has left observers wondering why the government has raised the tourist-scaring specter of terrorism.

Secretary General of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights Hafez Abu Seada told the Middle East Times that the government was trying to find a reason for the continued enforcement of emergency laws. The laws, which have been in force since the assassination of President Sadat 20 years ago, give the authorities wide powers of arrest and detention, raising concern from Egyptian and international human rights groups.

"After the government action following the Luxor massacre, the armed Islamists have been very weak... the government faces no threat from the fundamentalists," Abu Seada explained. "The government faces pressure from human rights groups and so they need to present a reason for keeping the emergency laws."

Abu Seada went on to say, "The law gives the Ministry of the Interior the ability to control the activities of political and human rights groups."

Interior Ministry officials were unavailable from comment.