

Family of missing Saudi pilot questions Spanish police report



The Saudi Embassy said they will assign a lawyer to follow up on the case.

Riyadh

The family of Saudi pilot Omar Al-Mutairi, who went missing more than 17 days ago on a cruise in Barcelona, did not agree with the Spanish police report which found no criminal motive behind his disappearance.

The Saudi Embassy in Madrid in a statement released recently said they received a report from the Spanish Coast Guard on April 4 regarding the disappearance of the Saudi pilot aboard the ship on its way back to Barcelona after a two-week trip. The Saudi Embassy asked the Spanish authorities to intensify their search for the missing pilot.

It said they are following up on the case and continuing to follow up with the Spanish authorities, which announced on Friday the conclusion of the investigation. They handed over copies of the report to the Saudi Embassy and to the family of the victim.

Bad emotional state

According to the report, the incident took place on April 3. According to eyewitnesses on board the ship, Al-Mutairi was in a bad emotional state and crying before he jumped off the ship. The report concluded that there was no criminal motive behind the incident.

The Saudi Embassy said they will assign a lawyer to follow up on the case based on the desire of the family who were not convinced by the police report. Speaking to the Makkah Arabic newspaper, the brother of the victim, Ahmad Al-Mutairi, said that his brother worked in Aramco in Dhahran.

He was scheduled to report for work on April 8. When he did not show up, the company contacted the family and the family contacted the Saudi Embassy in Madrid to investigate the case.

Full of contradictions

Ahmad said the police report was weak and full of contradictions. He called on the authorities to intensify the search for his brother and recover his body if he was dead or rescue him if he was still alive and to provide a clear evidence.

His friend at work Essa Al-Mutairi said that Omar loved traveling and reading. Omar Al-Mutairi, 34, hails from Jeddah but lived in Dhahran because of work.

He got his Masters degree from Florida University in 2010 and joined Saudi Aramco in 2012 as a civil engineer. Later he was sent on scholarship to learn flying. (*saudigazette*)

Qatar PM seen with terrorist at wedding

Riyadh

The Qatari government admitted in a statement released on Saturday that their Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani did in fact attend the wedding of terrorist financier Abdulrahman al-Nuaimi's son, affirming that there is "no hypocrisy at work."

They added that he was "personally" invited by the groom, whom they described as "a government employee of the state of Qatar, and an upstanding young man."

An Al Arabiya recent expose on Qatar's open relationship between government officials and known terrorist financiers, some of whom are on Doha's on terror sponsor list, has shed light on the country's lack of seriousness on addressing its ties and support of extremists groups.

Last week, *Al Arabiya* reported that know terrorist financier Abdulrahman al-Nuaimi had been living out in the open despite having just been designated as a terrorist by his own country a month earlier.

"There is no hypocrisy at work here. The prime minister will continue to support the good work of his employees," the government communications office added in the statement.

In a new claim, the Qatari government said that prosecutors were "building a new case" against al-Nuaimi whom they added roams free "due to lack of evidence."

However, in March, and after significant international pressure, Qatar itself included Al-Nuaimi in their terrorist list, five years after he was first designated by the US as a supporter of terrorism, and



Qatar Prime Minister, right, greets the groom, while his father Abd al-Rahman bin Umayr al-Nuaymi looks on

a longtime after the United Nations Security Council and its GCC neighbours did so as well.

In the statement, the Qatari government claimed that "the Emir of Qatar has no authority to unilaterally jail an individual."

International experts said that the Qatari statement reaffirms the questioning of the credibility of Doha's government over its support of terrorism.

Last year Trump denounced that Qatar is a "funder of terror", after Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain severed diplomatic and trade links with

Qatar in June of 2017 for its support of terrorist activities and groups in the region.

Following further assurances made by Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Qatari Emir, during a visit to the White House on April 9, Trump welcomed the Emir's pledge to combat terrorist financing.

Sheikh Abdullah's attendance of the terrorist financier's son's wedding came just two days after this pledge.

"It throws into doubt Qatar's claims to be taking a zero-tolerance approach to terror financiers as it attempts to end a blockade by neighbouring states that accuse the country

of supporting terrorist groups across the region and of being too close to Iran," prominent UK newspaper *The Telegraph* wrote.

The Telegraph confirmed the information first exposed by *Al Arabiya.net* which revealed that the prime minister was photographed in the event only a few weeks after his government designated Nuaimi as a financier of terrorism.

The report pushed many terrorism experts and former US officials to call the White House and the international community to make Doha accountable for its double-sided policy. (*Al Arabiya*)

Saudis down new missile from Yemen rebels

Riyadh

Saudi air defences yesterday intercepted another ballistic missile fired by Yemeni rebels at the kingdom's southern border city of Najran, as pro-government forces inflicted heavy losses on the rebels in south-west Yemen.

"Saudi forces were able to intercept [the missile]," the Saudi Press Agency said, citing the Saudi-led coalition fighting

Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

"But the shrapnel scattered over residential areas and caused a fire at a farm belonging to a citizen, without causing any injuries."

The missile was launched from Saada, the Houthi stronghold in northern Yemen, the coalition was cited as saying.

The coalition said another missile crashed in a Saudi

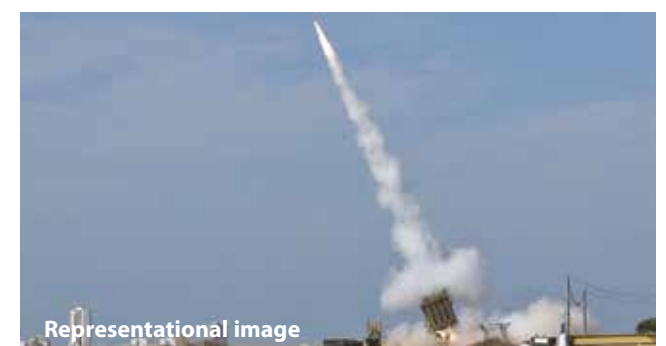
desert yesterday, without specifying a location, adding it caused no damage.

Meanwhile, pro-government troops backed by the UAE Armed Forces, a key member of the coalition, registered a fourth consecutive day of gains against the rebels in Taz province on the Red Sea coast.

The rapid advances in the direction of the port city of Mokha are significant steps

towards breaking the rebel siege of Taz city 50 kilometres away, a source in the Yemeni National Resistance Forces told UAE state news agency *Wam*.

Led by Brigadier GenTarek Mohamed Abdullah Saleh, the Yemeni National Resistance Forces have been joined by thousands of Yemeni nationals in recent days and are being supported by the Southern Resistance..(*The National*)



Representational image