

Jordan King urges Netanyahu to put the guard on trial

Amman

Jordan's king yesterday called for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to ensure a security guard who killed two Jordanians at the Israeli embassy in Amman at the weekend face trial.

Abdullah II urged Netanyahu to "take responsibility and take legal steps including the trial of the killer," a royal court statement reported him as saying.

Jordan allowed the security guard to fly home to Israel on Monday after he was held for questioning over Sunday night's shooting.

The guard was welcomed

home and greeted as a hero by Netanyahu, who embraced him and said: "You acted well, calmly and we also had an obligation to get you out."

The Jewish state maintained that the guard had diplomatic immunity.

The king called on the Israeli premier to "implement justice instead of dealing with this crime in the manner of a political show for personal political gains".

"This kind of behaviour -- which is unacceptable and provocative on all levels -- has made us all angry... and feeds extremism in the region," he said.



Jordan King Abdullah II

He vowed Jordan would do everything possible towards obtaining justice for its two slain nationals.

Israel's foreign ministry said the security guard shot dead

a Jordanian worker who had come to an apartment to install furniture and had stabbed him in the back with a screwdriver.

A second Jordanian was also killed -- apparently by accident.

Tensions have been high in recent days after Israel put in place security measures at the highly sensitive Al-Haram Al-Sharif mosque compound in east Jerusalem, known to Jews as Temple Mount.

Jordan is the official custodian of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, but it remained unclear if the incident was linked.

Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty in 1994. (AFP)

Egypt sets up 'national council' to combat 'terror'

Cairo

Egypt has created a "national council" to combat the rise of Islamist "terrorism" which has targeted its security forces and Coptic Christian minority, in a presidential decree issued on Wednesday.

The decree, published in Egypt's official gazette, sets up a "national council to combat terrorism and extremism" by adopting a "global national strategy".

The council is to be chaired by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and will comprise the sheikh of Al-Azhar, the highest Sunni religious authority in Egypt, and its Coptic pope, as well as the parliament speaker, premier and cabinet members, including the youth and sports minister.

Istanbul police detain 26 suspected IS members

Istanbul

Anti-terror officers in Istanbul detained 26 suspected members of the Islamic State jihadist group, Turkish media reported on Thursday.

Seventeen foreigners were among those detained, state-run Anadolu news agency said, without giving details of their nationalities.

Police seized several electronic devices and documents during the operation in nine different Istanbul districts, the agency said.

Officers suspected those detained had links to "people in conflict zones", Hurriyet daily reported, but not saying in which countries.

Turkey has been hit by a series of attacks in the last 18 months blamed on IS and Kurdish militants.

Turkey parliament strips two pro-Kurdish MPs of status

Ankara

The Turkish parliament yesterday voted to strip two pro-Kurdish lawmakers of their status of MP on the grounds of "absenteeism", their party said.

Peoples' Democratic Party's (HDP) Faysal Sariyildiz and Tugba Hezer Ozturk were removed from office by a large majority.

They are accused of "absenteeism", a party official said.

"This is the first time that a member of parliament has lost his/her seat because of this reason," she added.

"Those who usurp the will of the people by voting under the pretext of absenteeism, and those who turn a blind eye to a political purge must prepare themselves to live in shame," the HDP's co-chair, Serpil Kemalbay, said on Twitter.

Local media reported the two were currently abroad to escape trials where they are accused of links to Kurdish militants.

Hillary to explain 'What Happened' in new book



Hillary Clinton

New York

Defeated Democratic White House hopeful Hillary Clinton promises to let her guard down and explain what happened in her shock electoral defeat to Donald Trump, including the mistakes she made, in a book to be published in September.

Publishers Simon and Schuster revealed yesterday that the previously unnamed tome would be entitled "What Happened" and would be the former secretary of state's "most personal memoir yet."

"In the past, for reasons I try to explain, I've often felt I

had to be careful in public, like I was up on a wire without a net. Now I'm letting my guard down," writes Clinton in the introduction.

Her publishers said the book would reveal what Clinton thought and felt during the bruising 2016 campaign.

It will describe "what it was like" to run against Trump, "the mistakes she made, how she has coped with a shocking and devastating loss, and how she found the strength to pick herself back up," they said in an announcement ahead of the September 12 release date.

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