



Venezuela jails two Americans over failed 'invasion'

AFP News

Two former US soldiers have been sentenced to 20 years in prison in Venezuela on charges including terrorism, after a failed bid to invade the Caribbean country last May, Attorney General Tarek William Saab said.

Luke Alexander Denman, 34, and Airan Berry, 41, "admitted" to "conspiracy, association (to commit crimes), illicit trafficking of war weapons and terrorism" over the attempted invasion, allegedly aimed at toppling President Nicolas Maduro, Saab said on Twitter around midnight Friday.

They were sentenced during a court hearing, he said, and posted photographs of vehicles, weapons and identity documents.

Qatar concealed funding for Hezbollah: report

Qataris have paid 750 thousand euros to a person known to German media as "Jason G" to buy his silence

TDT | agencies

New evidence has emerged showing how deeply Qataris were involved in the funding of Hezbollah and its terrorist activities.

According to a new report, Qatari officials have bribed a Germany public relations company to conceal its secret funding to Hezbollah.

Qatar reportedly has paid 750 thousand euros to a person known to German media as "Jason G" to buy his silence on the role of Qatar to fund Hezbollah.



Hezbollah fighters in south Lebanon. (file courtesy of AP)

The new development comes weeks after German newspaper "Die Zeit" has revealed Qatar's funding for Hezbollah, weapons' deal and attempts to buy the silence of the client, "Jason G".

The report says Jason G carried out tasks in several countries in the world, including Qatar so that it would not be

published. Jason G is a former intelligence agent who currently owns a contracting company in Germany and has worked in a number of global intelligence services.

According to Al Ayam report, Al Washi, a German Business executive, had witnessed at least

I had never intended to obtain the amount of the settlement, and I had always intended to identify Hezbollah financiers in Qatar, and who were the Qataris who would give them protection

JASON G

six meetings between "Jason J" and Qataris before the collapse of their talks.

The information "Jason J" provided helped Qataris cover up and get rid of "suspects" including a high-ranking general.

Funds, the report said, were channelled to Hezbollah through Qatari charities, which are involved in a variety of politically active groups across Europe.

"Jason J" reportedly also had first-hand information about Qatari arms deals in Eastern Europe, which would have caused Qatar more embarrassment.

Jason has been the focus of 3 German media reports in recent weeks about Qatar's terrorist financing of Hezbollah, and its use of public relations firm VMB Eurom to accept a large cash payment to erase Doha's fingerprints in providing material military aid to Hezbollah.

The Berlin-based public relations firm reportedly played the mediator between Doha and Jason J. to reach an agreement that the client would not open the Qatar finance file for Hezbollah.

UK armed forces asked to help deal with migrant boats

Reuters | London

Britain's armed forces have been asked to help deal with boats carrying migrants across the Channel from France, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday after a spate of arrivals on the southern English coast.

Taking advantage of a spell of hot weather and calm sea conditions, hundreds of people including children and pregnant women have made the dangerous 33-km crossing in recent days, many in overloaded rubber dinghies and other small vessels.

Ready to help

Arab League to mobilise Arab efforts for Beirut



A Lebanese protester faces security forces in downtown Beirut

Lebanon's president rejects international probe

TDT, agencies | Beirut

Arab League Chief Ahmed About Gheit said yesterday he would seek to mobilise Arab efforts to provide support to Lebanon after this week's catastrophic explosion in Beirut destroyed parts of the capital.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Lebanese President Michel Aoun, he also said the Cairo-based league of Arab

states was ready to assist the investigation into the blast.

"We are ready to help with all our means," he said, adding that he would take part in an international conference call to be organised by France on Sunday to discuss aid for Lebanon.

"We have said the goods could be transported with smaller ships and other means of transportation from Mersin to Lebanon," he said.

Arab states, which have long channelled funds into Lebanon's fragile economy, had refrained this time from providing financial assistance, alarmed by the rising influence of Hezbollah, a terrorist group backed by Iran.

100,000

The United Nations said up to 100,000 children are among the 300,000 people made homeless, including many who have been separated from their families.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's president has rejected any international probe into the catastrophic Beirut port blast, saying a missile or negligence could have been responsible as rescuers desperately combed the rubble for survivors.

In another development, Lebanese riot police fired tear gas at demonstrators trying to break through a barrier to get to the parliament building in Beirut. A policeman was killed during the clashes with demonstrators, a police spokesman said.

Wife of Dutch envoy hurt in blast dies

Reuters | Amsterdam

The wife of the Dutch ambassador to Lebanon died yesterday after being seriously injured in the massive explosion that tore through Beirut's port on Tuesday, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said.

Hedwig Waltmans-Molier, 55, was injured by the explosion as she stood next to her husband, ambassador Jan Waltmans, in the living room of their house in Beirut, the ministry said.



France is sending specialist teams and equipment to help Mauritius deal with a fuel spill from a bulk carrier that ran aground on a pristine reef two weeks ago and threatens to become an ecological disaster. The MV Wakashio struck the reef on the southeast coast of the Indian Ocean island on July 25. On Thursday, Mauritius said fuel was leaking for a crack in the vessel's hull and its prime minister, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, declared a state of environmental emergency and pleaded for international help. Inset, the leak

Death toll from Air India Express accident rises to 18



A security official inspects the accident site

Reuters | Kozhikode, India

The death toll from an Indian passenger aircraft accident has risen to 18, while 16 people have been seriously injured, a senior government official said yesterday.

The Air India Express plane, which was repatriating Indians stranded in Dubai due to the coronavirus pandemic, overshot the runway of the Calicut International Airport in heavy rain near the southern city of Kozhikode on Friday.

The flight was carrying 190 passengers and crew.

Authorities have also asked local people who rushed out to help the passengers trapped in the plane to go into quarantine.

The flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder have been recovered from the site,

"The pilot tried a lot to land us (safely) in the rainy weather. It was cloudy and around 7-7.30 pm (GMT 1330-1400) in the evening, we crash-landed. It was difficult to land, he tried a lot," said one passenger, who gave his name as Ashraf.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES 43,629

ACTIVE CASES 2,919

DEATHS 161

DISCHARGED 40,549

NEW CASES 322

CRITICAL 36

210 fils (includes VAT)



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The recent, dangerous, painful events prove that there is no alternative (for Lebanon) to preserving the bridges with the Arab environment

ANWAR GARGASH
 EMIRATI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAID ON TWITTER