

Lebanon fears extremists have entered the country as tourists

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By The Daily Star
Wednesday, October 07, 2009

BEIRUT: The Central Security Council headed by Interior Minister Ziyad Baroud said on Tuesday that Arab tourists who arrived in Beirut during the past several months entered the country with valid visas and in accordance with Lebanese laws.

The statement issued following the council's meeting at the Interior Ministry's headquarters in the Beirut neighborhood of Sanayeh added that the Arab tourists still residing in Lebanon did not exceed their residence's permit.

Earlier this week, emerging media reports claimed that terrorists disguised as tourists entered the country.

In response to those alleged reports, the council said "the difference between Gulf nationals entering and leaving the country was minimal and conforms to past records."

"The Directorate of General Security conducts continuous investigations which includes the names and places of residence of tourists during their stay in Lebanon," the statement read.

The council also emphasized that the security forces and the Lebanese Army are cooperating continuously "on all levels to help track any terrorist cells."

"The council also decided to establish a security committee to assess the degree of security threat against individuals who filed requests for protection in order to take the appropriate measures," the statement added.
— The Daily Star

http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=2&article_id=107235

Lebanon fears extremists have entered the country as tourists

Middle East News
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Beirut - Lebanon's security apparatus are looking into claims that hundreds of Islamist fundamentalists loyal to al-Qaeda have entered Lebanon during the summer as tourists and remain in the country to plan terrorist attacks, a security official said Wednesday.

The high-ranking official who spoke on condition of anonymity told the German Press Agency dpa, 'our job is to look into these claims ... to see if these claims are true.'

Lebanese media reported that around 700 Arab nationals - extremists from Sunni fundamentalist groups such as the international terrorist network al-Qaeda - entered Lebanon in mid-August and never left the country.

According to the reports, the extremists were planning terror attacks inside Lebanon and in several neighboring Arab states.

The source said the Lebanese security forces had received some information from Arab intelligence departments about suspects fleeing to Lebanon and the authorities are looking into these cases.

Many observers fear that some of those extremists may try to turn Lebanon into a new launching pad for attacks against Westerners and Israel.

During the summer, several Katyusha rockets were fired into northern Israel from southern Lebanon. No one has claimed

responsibility, but many believe that Sunni fundamentalist groups are behind such attacks.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/middleeast/news/article_1505652.php/Lebanon-fears-extremists-have-entered-the-country-as-tourists

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Lebanon suspects mass infiltration of Islamist terrorists

By DPA

Lebanon's security apparatus are looking into claims that hundreds of Islamist fundamentalists loyal to Al-Qaida have entered Lebanon during the summer as tourists and remain in the country to plan terrorist attacks, a security official said Wednesday.

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<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1119462.html>
