

Beirut Charges 4 Russians With Terror

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BEIRUT, Lebanon -- Lebanese authorities on Friday charged 20 suspected militants, including four with Russian citizenship, with terrorism for purported membership in the al-Qaida-inspired Fatah Islam group, judicial officials and the state-run news agency said.

Prosecutor General Saeed Mirza filed the charges against 16 Palestinians and four Russians, the officials said on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Three, including one Russian, are in detention while the rest are at large.

The Russians are the first non-Arabs to be charged by authorities since Fatah Islam members fought Lebanese troops for three months starting May 20.

One of the Russian nationals is from Dagestan, and was identified by his nickname, Abu Abdullah. The others are Sergei Fisotsky, born in 1989, Timur Khozkov, born in 1987, and Aslan Yimkozhayev, born in 1987. Only Fisotsky is in custody. They could face death if convicted of terrorism charges.

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<http://www.moscowtimes.ru/stories/2007/10/08/020.html>