

Turkish intelligence busts Iranian plans to kidnap and attack Israelis

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Türkiye's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) and police busted the Iranian intelligence service SAVAMA in Istanbul on June 17.

They were allegedly preparing to kidnap and attack Israeli diplomats and tourist groups in Istanbul.

They have determined that the shooters who planned to take part in the attacks were in Istanbul.

MIT and police have received information that kidnappings and killings were planned against Israelis living or visiting as tourists in Istanbul and against a former Israeli ambassador and his wife who were staying at a hotel in the Beyoğlu district.

Nearly 10 suspects, including local collaborators have been detained in a joint operation conducted by MIT and police in The Soul Hotel and three separate rental houses in the Beyoğlu district on June 17.

It was stated that members of the intelligence service were undercover as students and the Revolutionary Guards as businesspeople and tourists for the attack which was caught in the planning stage.

The interrogations of the Iranians, whose detention periods have been extended, continue.

The intelligence agency of Israel, Mossad have taken the targeted citizens from their addresses and sent them to Tel Aviv on a private plane.

Israel had vowed to take revenge after the recent assassinations of Iranian scientists in Tehran and the assassination of the Revolutionary Guards colonel, Sayyad Khodai on May 22.

The killing of Colonel Sayyad Khodai is the most high profile murder inside Iran since the November 2020 killing of top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

Israel's Foreign Minister Yair Lapid had urged citizens in Turkey to leave "as soon as possible" over threats that Iranian operatives are actively planning to kill or abduct on Israelis in Istanbul.

The stark warning had come amid the latest surge in tensions between bitter rivals Iran and Israel, with Tehran blaming the Jewish state for a series of attacks on its nuclear and military infrastructure in Iran and also inside Syria.

Lapid had made no mention of any alleged Israeli operations against Iranian targets.

MIT and police had busted and an Iranian espionage network in eastern Türkiye on Oct. 13 last year in a joint operation.

The espionage network had eight members, two of those were found to be Iranian agents.

The Iranian intelligence officers were found to be trying to create a network with a budget of \$30,000 in Türkiye's Van province to abduct a former Iranian soldier, identified only by the initials M.A., to Iran.

The MIT and police had caught the network members red-handed after they were sent to Van to abduct M.A to Iran via vehicle.