

**KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ATTACK ON THE
NORTH SINAI AL-RAWDA MOSQUE ON NOVEMBER 24**

Background

- On November 24, terrorist militants launched an attack on innocent Egyptian civilians during Friday prayers, taking 305 Muslim lives. The attack claimed the lives of nearly one-quarter of the village residents.
- According to witnesses, a number of terrorist militants driving all-terrain vehicles set off a bomb in the vicinity of al-Rawda Mosque in Bir al-Abed, just west of North Sinai's main city, El Arish. The bomb was followed by open fire on worshippers attending services at the mosque.
- The attackers stormed the mosque with automatic rifles, wearing military-like outfits and waving a black flag that reportedly resembled the Islamic state. The attack was launched as the Imam, Sheikh Mohamed Raziq, was about to begin the regular Friday prayers. Raziq sustained injuries.
- The massacre lasted for 20 minutes, resulting in the killing of 305 Egyptian Muslims, including 27 children, while more than 120 worshippers were injured. The militants also opened fire on first responders arriving at the scene to transport victims.
- In a strong and serious condemnation of the attack, President Abdel Fatah el-Sisi addressed the public immediately following the attack on Friday, vowing to respond with "brute force against the small band of extremist terrorists." The President also asserted that the attack would be followed by a "detering and firm punishment," adding that the "pain felt by the Egyptian people will not be in vain."
- A three-day mourning period was announced in Egypt on Friday. The international community responded in solidarity, offering official statements denouncing the deadly attack as well as commitments to stand by Egypt.
- In light of the attack, and considering the work that must be done by the Government of Egypt and the United States to respond to radical terror, the Egyptian Government requests that the U.S. Congress reconsider its proposed cuts for military aid.

Egyptian Government Response

- A few hours following the attack, the Egyptian Air Force launched airstrikes targeting terrorist hideouts in the mountains near the El Arish attack scene. The attacks destroyed several vehicles used to carry out the atrocity and killed the terrorists on board.
- Since the attack, Egyptian security forces have been deployed in large areas of North Sinai, including mountainous terrains, in search of the perpetrators. Heightened security measures have been taken surrounding the mosque, including reinforced and modernized police forces and equipment.
- The Ministry of Justice ordered Hisham Abdel Hamid, Director of Forensic Medicine, to send a team of forensic specialists – including doctors, assistants and technicians – to North Sinai hospitals, where bodies of the victims were transferred.

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- President El-Sisi called for a series of relief actions be taken in the name of victims, including granting assistance in the amounts of 250,000 LE (about 15,000 USD) to the families of those killed and injured.
- The bodies of the victims arrived to the mosque early Saturday morning, where thousands of people had prepared for the funerals of their martyred.
- The Egyptian Government is investigating the attack and the perpetrators are still unknown.

Official Statements and Media Reactions

- President El-Sisi stated that the "cowardly" attack reflects the inhumanity of its perpetrators. The President also asserted that there would be decisive punishment and "justice will be served against everyone who participated, contributed, supported, funded or incited this attack on worshippers." The President emphasized that the attacks in the Sinai province are in reaction to Egypt's efforts to combat terrorism, and that Egypt leads the fight "on its own, and on behalf of the region and the entire world."
- The White House condemned the terrorist attack, calling on the international community to step up efforts to eliminate terrorism worldwide. President Donald Trump described the attack as "horrible and cowardly," and pledged to stand with the people of Egypt. Vice President Pence also denounced the attack.
- Several world leaders, including Pope Francis, British Prime Minister Theresa May, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and EU Ambassador in Cairo Ivan Surkoš all denounced the attack. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Parliamentary Assembly responded to the incident with a moment of silence. French President Emanuel Macron expressed solidarity with the people of Egypt.
- Canada's CN tower has been lit up with colors of the Egyptian flag in tribute to the lost lives. In Paris, the lights of the Eiffel Tower were turned off in a display of solidarity to Egypt and to mourn the fallen victims. Global search engine Google placed a black ribbon on its homepage in tribute to the perished lives.

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