

Report: Hezbollah member admits Egypt plot

by UPI

CAIRO -- A captured militant has admitted Hezbollah was planning to carry out three suicide bombings in Egypt aimed at Israeli tourists, an Egyptian report indicates.

The Egyptian daily al-Ahram reported Tuesday Sami Shihab, the alleged head of a Hezbollah cell based in Egypt, has confessed to police the militant group had plotted three simultaneous bombings at different tourist spots in the Sinai peninsula, and then planned to publish a statement taking responsibility for the blasts, the Israeli Web site Ynetnews said.

The report said Shihab allegedly admitted the cell's aim was to carry out bombings on Egyptian soil, rather than to help fellow Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip, as claimed by Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, the Web site reported.

The Lebanese daily al-Akhbar, considered to be closely aligned with Hezbollah, reported the story differently, however. It said Shihab claimed there was no plot to carry out attacks inside Egypt and the cell only planned to infiltrate Israel through Egypt to strike Israeli targets, Ynetnews said.

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