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Gunmen attack Egyptian tour bus; nine dead

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Three men in white shirts and ties strode calmly up to a bus as German tourists climbed aboard Thursday — then pulled a gun and explosives from a black plastic bag. Ten people were killed in a hail of gunfire and firebombs that set the bus ablaze.
The noontime attack — which police blamed on Muslim radicals — sent frightened tourists and bystanders streaming in panic from Cairo's Egyptian Museum, a major tourist landmark that contains one of the world's greatest collections of Pharaonic antiquities.
Police fired on the gunmen, wounding and capturing two of them. A third suspect was arrested nearby as hundreds of people fled the museum, famed for its rich gold artifacts from the tomb of King Tut.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but police described the gunmen as Muslim extremists. The attack came three days after Egypt convicted 72 people of subversion in its largest trial yet of Muslim extremists.



"I saw one man hurl a Molotov cocktail at the left side of the bus, while another opened fire," said Mohammed Fadd, an office worker. "There was black smoke coming out of the bus, and then it burst into flames."
"The whole place was in panic," said Stephen Thomas, a Briton who was visiting the museum with his wife and two children.
Another witness, an American from Buffalo, N.Y., who gave his

name only as Mark, said the gunfire continued "for what must have been 10-15 minutes. It was crazy, people were running."
Other witnesses said the gunmen threw one firebomb under the bus and another inside.
Twenty-four people were wounded, including seven hospitalized in stable condition in Qasr el-Aini hospital, police said. Officials said other victims were treated and released, but had no details.

More than 30 German tourists were already on the bus when the gunmen opened fire shortly after noon, when the museum was crowded with visitors and nearby Tahrir Square was jammed with pedestrians and vehicles.
After the attack, two bodies, one riddled with bullets, lay across the stairs of the charred bus, its tires melted and its windows blown out. Seven other bodies were inside, some sprawled across the aisles. A tenth victim died after being removed from the bus.

There was a disagreement over the nationalities of the dead: police said nine were Germans and the other was the Egyptian bus driver. But German officials said only seven of the dead were German. Police said six of the dead were women and four were men.
After the attack, hundreds of policemen carrying plastic riot shields, assault rifles tipped with tear gas canisters and rifles sealed off the downtown museum to search for the gunmen.

Mahmoud Hamdy, the driver of a tour bus parked nearby, said the attackers wore white shirts and ties and looked just like any other Egyptian tourist agent working in the area.

A police statement identified two of the suspects as Saber Farhat Abu el-Ulla and his brother Mahmoud. It said Saber Abu el-Ulla was convicted of a 1993 attack on a Cairo hotel that killed two Americans and a Frenchman, and was committed to a mental institution after being ruled mentally ill.
The police statement said Saber Abu el-Ulla had escaped three days ago. But police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he had been released after spending two years in the institution.

Muslim extremist attacks on foreigners

Muslim extremists have targeted foreigners as part of their campaign since the spring of 1992 to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. Fatal attacks involving foreign tourists are:

- 1992**
1. Oct. 21: British nurse dies in bus attack near Dairut.
- 1993**
2. Feb. 26: A Swede, a Turk and an Egyptian are killed, 18 others, including two Americans, one Canadian and one Frenchman, are injured in bombing at downtown Cairo coffee shop.
- 1994**
3. March 4: German woman is injured and later dies after a machine gun is fired at Nile cruiser near Abu Tig
4. Aug. 26: Spanish boy, 13, killed when suspected extremists fire at tourist bus near Nag Hamadi. Three others are injured.
5. Sept. 27: German tourist and two Egyptians killed when suspected extremist opens fire in downtown square



- 6. Oct. 23:** British man killed, British woman and two British men wounded when suspected extremist opens fire on van near Naquada. Egyptian driver also wounded.
- 1996**
7. April 18: Gunmen open fire with automatic rifles at Europa Hotel near the Pyramids, killing 18 Greek tourists and wounding 16 others. An Egyptian also wounded.
- 1997**
8. Sept. 18: Attackers throw fire bombs and open fire on tourist bus outside the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, killing at least nine people, seven of them German tourists. Four foreigners and 15 Egyptians were wounded.

Police officials said Saber Abu el-Ulla told interrogators Thursday's attack was to avenge posters depicting the Prophet Mohammed as a pig distributed by a Jewish extremist in the Palestinian city of Hebron in June.

The incident has been widely condemned in the Muslim world, as well as by Israeli leaders.
Thursday's attack came three days after a court convicted 72 people of subversion in Egypt's largest trial of Islamic extremists. Four of the defendants were sentenced to death and eight to life imprisonment.
More than 1,100 people have been killed during the Muslim militants' five-year campaign of violence, including tourists, police of-

ficers and minority Coptic Christians. Before Thursday's attack at least 29 foreigners had died in violence.

In the most recent attack on foreigners, Muslim radicals attacked a group of Greek tourists at a hotel near the pyramids in 1996, killing 18 Greeks. The extremist al-Gamaa al-Islamiya Islamic Group, claimed responsibility for that attack, saying it mistook the Greeks for Israeli tourists.
Authorities repeatedly have said that police have largely put down the rebellion by militants wishing to install Islamic law. Recent violence for the most part has been confined to battles between police and suspected militants in southern Eg-

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ATM Aggie A&M look

BY JEFF WEBB Staff writer
Revenge is a dish best served cold, and the Texas A&M Aggie team will be looking for the buffet line on Saturday when Aggies take on the University of North Texas in the Southwest Louisiana. In last year's game against the Aggies, the only player to be named in the game was Cajuns, the only player named by the Aggies was a punter that led to the Aggies' 22-10 upset in Lafayette. This year, things promise to be different. With the mass overreaction to the Big 12 this past week and the jump in the polls, Texas A&M can have much more success in taking care of business. Most of the attention is on the shoulders of Brent Stewart who had his worst

Third-race face Ut

BY NICOLE HOOVER Staff writer
The third ranked Texas A&M (6-0) will head back to the Soccer Complex this weekend for two home games until October, when they host the Soccer Classic. On Friday, the Aggies will play at Oregon on Sunday. Baylor will also be at the weekend to play Utah at the Aggie stadium. The Aggie soccer team is well on its way to a successful season, since this will be their first game. Even with the Aggies' record, they are not convinced these two games are in the "Reputation doesn't matter" Guerrieri said. "To be able to play at our high level every single game, we are playing teams that are better than Nebraska and

Golfer

BY JASON WHITE Staff writer
The No. 24-ranked Texas A&M team will open its fall season tomorrow at the William H. Miller Collegiate at the University of Albuquerque, site of the National Championships. "These guys are really good," Coach Bob Ellis, who is in his 11th season at A&M. "I don't think we had a team with as much experience as this team." "Its kind of a thrill for me to see this kind of success after 23 years, there have been many players that have been excellent."

The Match-Ups

- USL at Texas A&M (-38)
- #7 Nebraska at #2 Washington State (-25)
- Baylor at #8 Michigan (-25.5)
- #13 Iowa (-26) at Iowa St.
- North Texas at Texas Tech (-3)
- Oklahoma at California (-4)
- Missouri (-5.5) at Tulsa
- #4 Tennessee at #3 Florida (-6)
- #5 Florida St. (-18.5) at #16 Oklahoma State (-19)
- #12 Auburn at #10 LSU (-5.5)
- Dolphins at Buccaneers (-3.5)
- Steelers at Jaguars (-3.5)
- Last Week
- Cumulative

NOTE: The Battalion