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Yemeni oil field attack leaves four workers dead

By Ahmed Al-Haj
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN'A, Yemen — A Yemeni man shot four oil company co-workers Tuesday — killing an American, a Canadian and a Yemeni — before shooting himself dead, the Yemeni Interior Ministry said.

A second Canadian was wounded. The assailant may have suffered from depression, and witnesses reported that during the attack he yelled he was taking revenge "against those who were filing reports about him," a ministry statement said.

The attack occurred in an oil field in the oil-rich northern province of Marib, about 100 miles northeast of the Yemeni capital San'a, a ministry statement said.

A statement by Hunt Oil Co., which supervises the oil rig, said the four victims worked at a rig owned and operated by Nabors Drilling Co. and were shot while working in the field.

The American victim was a Hunt Oil Co. superintendent,

while the two Canadians and the Yemeni man, in addition to the alleged killer, were Nabors employees, the Hunt statement said.

The names of the American and Canadians were not released, pending notification of next of kin. The dead Yemeni oil worker was identified as Nazem al-Kabati.

In a statement, the U.S. Embassy in San'a condemned the violence and called on the Yemeni government to investigate. It said American law enforcement personnel would help.

The Yemeni Interior Ministry statement, quoting an unidentified official, said the alleged assailant, identified as Naji Abdullah al-Kumaim, worked for Nabors for seven years and suffered from depression.

"According to testimony from his co-workers, the assailant was suffering from bouts of depression," the statement said. "He was not known to have any previous political affiliations and the motives of the crime are believed to be

North Americans shot in Yemen

A Yemeni man shot four oil company co-workers in the province of Marib, killing an American, a Canadian, a Yemeni and wounding a second Canadian before shooting himself dead.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESR

criminal and personal ... since was shouting during the shooting that he would take revenge against those who were filing reports about him."

Hunt spokesman G. Oberwetter, speaking from Dallas, said the company suspended our drilling operations in Yemen for the foreseeable future."

He said the company expressed its "heartfelt sympathies to all the victims and their families."

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