Turkey detains 3 British teens on way to join ISIS

Trio arrested after tip-off from UK authorities, deported back to London

ANGARA – Three male British teenagers planning to join Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have been arrested in Turkey and deported back to the UK, according to The Guardian.

The three, aged between 17 and 19, are suspected of joining ISIS after sending a graphic message on Twitter where they claimed to have joined the terror group in Syria.

The three were detained in the southeastern city of Gaziantep, near the border with Syria, after Turkish authorities tipped off their British counterparts that they were planning to travel through Turkey into Syria. They have not yet been named in the UK.

The arrests come after British students were reportedly detained at an airport in Istanbul on their way to Europe.

Turkish authorities have been on high alert after a series of terrorist attacks in recent months, including a suicide bombing in the capital Ankara.

Security services estimate about 400 British Muslims have traveled to Syria and Iraq to join or support ISIS. The British government has warned that anyone who goes abroad to fight for the group will face terrorism charges.

The three detained were not members of any particular group within ISIS, the group has said.

CIA money wound up in Al-Qaeda’s coffers

WASHINGTON – The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has been accused of paying millions to Al-Qaeda to recruit and train foreign fighters.

The CIA paid $50 million to Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan in 2001, according to a report by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The report found that the CIA made the payments to Al-Qaeda to help finance its operations and recruit foreign fighters.

The CIA has previously denied paying money to Al-Qaeda, but the Senate report says the agency has failed to provide evidence to support its denial.

The CIA has called the report “false and misleading” and has said it is working to improve transparency and accountability.

New York Times

Cyclone-ravaged Vanuatu declares state of emergency

SOUTH PACIFIC (AP) — Relief supplies have been rushed to cyclone-ravaged Vanuatu, the Asian country that has declared a state of emergency.

The United Nations said 46 people had died after Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu on Friday, bringing strong winds and rain that has destroyed homes and infrastructure.

The UN said in a statement that “the situation is expected to worsen as Cyclone Pam continues to move eastwards, bringing heavy rain and strong winds to Vanuatu.”

The government is calling for emergency supplies, including food and water, to be sent to the affected areas.

The government said it was still assessing the scale of the disaster, but estimates suggest between 70 and 100 people have died so far.

The government has asked the international community for assistance.

The UN said it was providing $2 million for emergency humanitarian aid.

Australia and New Zealand have pledged aid, and New Zealand has said it will send a search and rescue team.

The government has also appealed for donations from the public.

The cyclone, which hit Vanuatu and nearby Solomon Islands, has left a trail of destruction in its wake.

President Baldwin Lonsdale described the storm as “the worst that has devastated our country”, and said it had caused “irreparable damage”.

Lonsdale said the government was still assessing the damage but had declared a state of emergency.

The government has said it was working to restore essential services, including water and electricity.

The government has also appealed for international aid to help with the recovery effort.

The cyclone has been described as one of the strongest to hit Vanuatu in recent years.

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