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## I. Egypt Escalates vs. Britain

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# Egypt may take case to World Court

The Egyptian government escalated its campaign against Britain on Dec. 15, when its newspaper, *Al Ahram*, raised the threat that Egypt might go to the International Court in The Hague, over British safehousing of terrorists.

On Dec. 14, the *Al Ahram* reporter in Qatar, asked UN High Commission on Refugees official Adel Yassin what Egypt could do about Britain providing safehousing for terrorists, under the cover of "political asylum." *Al Ahram* prominently published the UN official's response: "Egypt has the right to seek international arbitration, to force Britain to extradite wanted terrorists. In this case, the Court can decide in favor of Egypt, especially because Britain is one of the signatories of the refugees agreement, and is committed, thereby, to extradite those who are convicted for crimes against humanity."

That Egypt might go to the World Court, or similar forums, had earlier been suggested by coverage in the Egyptian government media, in their ridicule of Britain's perverse use of the concept of "asylum" to justify harboring terrorists.

On Dec. 7, the Egyptian government news agency MENA issued an international wire on an *Al Ahram* article of the same date, which, MENA said, "violently assails Britain and other countries that shelter terrorists."

*Al Ahram* emphasized, MENA reported, that: "Political asylum as understood by Egypt, and as recognized by international laws and norms, is one that is granted to those who are persecuted in their own countries because of their political views, or those who are waging a national liberation revolution against foreign occupiers or fascist governments, not to those wanted by justice because of the crimes they boast of having committed, or terrorists who aim their weapons against innocent people, including pupils and tourists. Noting that Egypt has submitted to the British government documents incriminating terrorist Yasser al Sirri in several terrorist operations, *Al Ahram* expresses regret and surprise at the lack of any British reaction to the charges."

### Egypt calls in British ambassador

Meanwhile, on Dec. 14, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa summoned British Ambassador to Egypt David Blatherwick, to hand him an official note, demanding Britain "stop providing a safe haven to terrorists, and cooperate with Egypt to counter terrorism," *Al Ahram* reported on Dec. 15.

Following the meeting, Musa, in an interview with the London *Times*, the British establishment's foreign policy

mouthpiece, blasted British culpability, and "called on Britain to stop the flow of money from Islamic radicals in London to terrorist groups in Egypt, and to ban preachers in British mosques calling for the assassination of foreign leaders," the *Times* reported. The *Times* said that Musa "was outraged by reports that £2.5 million had come from exiles in Britain to the outlawed Gamaa al-Islamiya," that is, the Islamic Group, which has claimed responsibility for the Luxor massacre.

The *Times* added that the Egyptian government "has blamed the Luxor massacre on terrorists funded and encouraged from abroad, and identified Britain as the main center for radicals plotting assassinations."

## Mubarak: British 'laxity, if not collusion'

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, referring to the terrorists responsible for the massacre of 62 people in Luxor, Egypt, on Nov. 17, said in a press conference in Aswan, Egypt on Nov. 23, that they "live in Britain, Afghanistan, and other countries, where they plan and finance their crimes. If these states had cooperated in eliminating these criminals, such crimes would not have happened."

"If a terrorist group has committed a crime, we have to find out who is behind them," he continued. "The terrorists live in England, and in other countries, like Afghanistan. They have committed crimes, and some of them have been sentenced. Despite all that, they are still living on English soil, and raise money, and plan [their actions], together with fugitives in Afghanistan. The whole lot of them are murderers."

"All these terrorist actions would not have happened if European states had not protected these terrorists," he concluded. "The harboring and financing of these terrorists by foreign powers, has helped increase the violence."

When a journalist suggested that Sudan, a frequent scapegoat for British crimes, was responsible, President Mubarak replied: "No. No. They exist in Europe and Afghanistan. Sudan has changed, and the situation is better there now. But there is coordination between those who are in England, and those in Afghanistan."

Asked about dialogue with the terrorists, President Mubarak responded: "Dialogue with whom? We tried for 14 to 20 years, and each time we had a dialogue with them, they became stronger. And if these foreign states had not harbored those who received hard sentences, all this would not have happened!"

European complaints that Egypt failed to protect foreign tourists were raised. President Mubarak exclaimed: "The terrorists who make the plans, and have the money, are living in Europe. And now, the terrorists have killed their children."