Amnesty International

Public Statement

Deadly bombing in Egypt's South Sinai condemned

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Amnesty International condemns yesterday's bombing of a tourist bus in South Sinai, in an attack that appeared to have deliberately targeted foreign nationals and ordinary Egyptians.

This is the first such attack against tourists and Egyptians in the Sinai since Mohamed Morsi was ousted as Egypt's president on 3 July 2013.

The deadly bombing, near the Taba border crossing with Israel, left one Egyptian and three South Korean nationals dead and over a dozen people injured, state news has reported.

The South Koreans were part of a group of Christian pilgrims who were on a religious journey in Sinai and were on their way to Eilat in Israel.

Background
In the months following Mohamed Morsi's ousting as Egypt's president, army checkpoints, security personnel and government buildings have come under increased attack by various armed groups.

The attacks against the security forces have left at least 98 security personnel dead since 3 July 2013, according to figures from the Interior Ministry, military spokespeople and Egyptian media.

While the violence has mostly affected North Sinai, it has increasingly spread to other regions.

Attacks have also killed and injured ordinary Egyptians. On 26 December 2013 the bombing of a public transport bus in Cairo's Nasr City left one dead and another four injured.

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