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Two dead in clashes between army and road-toll protesters near Libyan border

Fourteen-year-old boy amongst those killed by military live ammunition as clashes erupt Tuesday in Egypt's western city Salloum between army and citizens protesting against increase in road charges

Ahmed Nafadi in Salloum, Wednesday 11 Apr 2012

Egypt's Borders at Salloum (Photo: AP)

At least two are dead and eight injured in clashes late Tuesday evening between the military and citizens of Salloum, located near the Libyan borders, following protests against an increase in road tolls. The military fired live ammunition to disperse the crowds.

Hundreds of demonstrators blocked the roads Tuesday afternoon after road charges for commercial trucks increased from LE 450 to LE 600 per vehicle.

Security sources stated the protests were triggered by young men who work in transportation across the Libyan-Egyptian border and, who according to state forces, refused to abide by border regulations.

Amongst those killed were a 14-year-old boy Anwar Abdel-Maqsoud Abdel-Hayy and 23-year-old Abdel-Mawla Mahmoud Beshry. Their deaths triggered further uproar amongst the city's inhabitants, who torched the military intelligence headquarters in response to the deaths. The military subsequently disappeared from the western city.

The families of those killed refused to bury their dead before a fact finding commission is sent to investigate the case.

Egypt's prosecutor-general consequently dispatched a team of investigators to the border city Wednesday morning. They inspected the bodies and found two bullet wounds to the chests, confirming the use of live ammunition. The bodies have been sent for forensic testing.

According to Fouad Zaghoul, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party in Salloum, residents enforced a curfew on the city following the clashes.

Salafist Nour Party member Gaber Awadallah also stated that several Members of Parliament (MPs) from his party have headed to the city to hold talks with the inhabitants in an attempt to reach a solution to the crisis.

Currently Nour Party MPs Khairallah El-Zoeiry, Essam Ismail Abdel-Aal, Farag Hussein El-Awamy and Abdel-Karim Qassem are in the beleaguered city to act as mediators.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gPZNmrimuJ5FUryvJavRY6RW9BvA?docId=CNG.0645ffb987c77aa30ff119aa1c706ffe.c1>

Egypt protesters torch military building in border town

(AFP) – Apr 11, 2012

CAIRO — Egyptian protesters on Wednesday set fire to a military intelligence building on the Libyan border, a day after deadly clashes with security forces, security officials told AFP.

Residents of the border town of Salloum also blocked the motorway to Libya, allowing access only to Libyan families returning home, the official said.

They later withdrew their blockade of the motorway, state news agency MENA said.

The unrest comes after residents blocked the road on Tuesday night to protest security restrictions on cross-border traffic and increased tariffs for lorries.

Security forces intervened, leading to clashes that left two people dead and four injured.

Egypt has been gripped by security-related problems, protests and clashes since a popular uprising that toppled president Hosni Mubarak last year.