

Two Russian Women Injured in Terror Attack on Tunisia Museum

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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People surround an ambulance carrying the bodies of the victims of an attack by gunmen on Tunisia's national museum in Tunis, March 18, 2015.

At least two Russian tourists were among those injured after gunmen wearing military uniforms stormed Tunisia's national museum on Wednesday, killing at least 17 people.

Five Japanese as well as visitors from Italy, Poland and Spain were among the dead in the noon assault on Bardo museum inside the heavily guarded parliament compound in central Tunis, Prime Minister Habib Essid said Wednesday.

A spokesperson for the Russian Embassy in Tunis said at least two Russians were injured in the attack, news agency Interfax said.

Both Russian citizens were female and had visited the museum as part of a group excursion, the report said.

"They just started opening fire on the tourists as they were getting out of the buses. ... I couldn't see anything except blood and the dead," the driver of a tourist coach told journalists at the scene.

While Reuters reported that 17 people had been killed in the attack, Tunisian Health Ministry adviser Samar Sammoud was cited by radio station Mozaique.fm as saying 21 people had lost their lives.

Twelve Italians and eleven Polish citizens were among the 48 people injured, Sammoud added.

During the attack, scores of visitors fled into the museum and the militants — who authorities did not immediately link to any extremist group — took hostages inside, officials said. Security forces entered around two hours later, killed two militants and freed the captives, a government spokesman said. A police officer died in the operation.

The attack on such a high-profile target is a blow for the small North African country that relies heavily on European tourism and has mostly avoided major militant violence since its 2011 uprising to oust autocrat Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali.

Material from the Moscow Times was added to this report.

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