

## Russian Women Accused of Killing Pakistani Prison Guard Over 'Religious Dispute'

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Three Russian women said to be followers of the Islamic State terrorist group are suspected of killing a prison guard in Pakistan, Russia's Foreign Ministry has said.

The three women were charged with premeditated murder after the 23-year-old warden's body was <u>discovered</u> by the gate of the women's barrack near the city of Karachi, Pakistani media reported Tuesday. The suspects, who were reportedly awaiting deportation back to Russia, allegedly had a religious dispute with the warden who they <u>thought</u> was an "infidel."

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Russia's Foreign Ministry said it believes the three women "follow the extremist ideology of the terrorist organization ISIS" and sought to join its branch in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"[The women had] illegally crossed the Iran-Pakistan border and were waiting for extradition to Russia along with eight underage children who were with them," it <u>said</u> Thursday.

Russia's consulate in Karachi is looking into the details of the murder case and Russian diplomats are in contact with Pakistani law enforcement officials, the Foreign Ministry said.

Islamic State is a terrorist organization banned in Russia.

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