

Turkish Media Disclose Identity of Alleged Spy for Canada

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Turkish media have released the name, as well as video footage, of an alleged agent for Canadian intelligence, who says he helped three British schoolgirls travel to territory controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. The three girls, aged between 15 and 16 years old, crossed into ISIS-controlled territory on February 17, after traveling by plane from London to Istanbul. The incident prompted international criticism of the Turkish government's hands-off attitude toward a growing influx of Western Islamists who cross into Syria from Turkey, intent on joining ISIS. However, Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mevlut Cavusoglu [said last week](#) that the girls had been assisted by an intelligence agent working for a member-state of the military coalition fighting ISIS.

The minister declined to offer further details. But Turkish media eventually disclosed the identity of the alleged agent, who has been detained by authorities in Turkey as Mohammed al-Rashed. Also known as "Mohammed Mehmet Rashid" or "Dr. Mehmet Rashid", the man is a Syrian national who claims to be working for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. [According](#) to Turkey's pro-government daily *Sabah*, al-Rashed is a 28-year-old Syrian dentist who fled from Syria to Jordan in 2013 to escape the civil war there. While in Jordan, he sought asylum at the Canadian embassy in Amman. He was subsequently offered Canadian citizenship, said *Sabah*, in return for working as an agent of CSIS. According to the Turkish daily, al-Rashed then traveled to Canada, where he stayed for several months before returning to Jordan.

Sources in Turkey say al-Rashed explained upon his detention that he had been tasked by CSIS to uncover the methods by which European and American ISIS recruits travel to Syria through Turkey. For that reason, he said, he had helped at least 15 individuals, including the three British schoolgirls, cross from Turkey to Syria. He would then provide information on the transfers—including passport data and baggage tags—to the Canadian embassy in Jordan, he said. *Sabah* added that the Canadians would pay for al-Rashed's frequent trips to Jordan, where he would meet a Canadian embassy employee called "Matt", who would then pass on the information to his superior at the embassy, called "Claude". The Syrian alleged agent added that CSIS would compensate him for his work through frequent deposits of between \$800 and \$1,500 made to bank accounts opened in his name in British banks. Turkish sources added that al-Rashed had recorded details of his activities on a personal laptop, which had been seized and was being examined.

The Canadian government has [yet to comment publicly](#) on the allegations about al-Rashed. Unnamed Canadian sources said last week that he was neither a Canadian citizen nor a CSIS employee. But officials so far refused to speculate on what they describe as "operational

matters of national security”.

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