



Police know identity of two more Kozani bank robbers

Police believe they know the identity of two additional perpetrators in last Friday's double bank heist near Kozani in northern Greece beyond the four detained suspects who have been linked to the urban guerrilla group Conspiracy of the Cells of Fire, Kathimerini understands.

According to sources, the two men were detained in the northern city of Florina last November after police deemed the car they had been traveling in to be suspicious and stopped it for an inspection. The check was carried out shortly after a bank robbery in the area. The suspects, who reportedly resisted arrest, had their fingerprints and DNA samples taken by officers who then released them.

A police inspection on the car, which had been rented from a shop in Athens, also revealed the fingerprints of Yiannis Michailidis, one of the four suspected members of Conspiracy of the Cells of Fire arrested last Friday in Kozani.

Police are seeking another four people in connection with the Kozani heist, including the two men briefly detained in Florina last November.

On Wednesday, the four robbers arrested last Friday, all suspected members of Conspiracy of the Cells

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION

Human rights watchdog Amnesty International on Monday issued a statement calling on Greek authorities to investigate claims that four men arrested last week over a double armed bank heist in northern Greece were victims of police brutality.

The watchdog's call came after photographs released by the Greek police showed the four suspects – aged between 20 to 24 – with bruises to their faces. The photographs also showed signs of having been doctored, which the Public Order Ministry said was done in order to make them more recognizable. Police said the four were injured during their arrest and that only necessary force was used, but

family members and lawyers allege that there was no clash, and that the young men were severely beaten in detention, claims that are the subject of an investigation launched by an Athens prosecutor on Monday.

«The Greek authorities cannot just Photoshop their problems away. This culture of impunity needs to be stopped,» said Marek Marczynski, deputy director of the Europe and Central Asia Program at Amnesty International. «There has to be an effective, thorough and impartial investigation into allegations of police torture. Such an investigation has to identify those responsible and they should promptly be brought to justice,» he said.

of Fire, were transferred from Athens to Kozani, where they are to defend themselves before an investigating magistrate in connection with last Friday's heist. Meanwhile, responding to the ongoing public and media

outcry over police photographs that show the four suspects badly bruised, Public Order Minister Nikos Dendias insisted that any officers found to have abused the detainees' human rights would be punished.

Seventy-year-old held for 53-mln-euro debt to state

A 70-year-old man, identified as a photographic equipment trader, was arrested in the southern Athens suburb of Voula on Tuesday for owing the state more than 53 million euros.

Authorities said he was one of eight people arrested in Athens on Tuesday over unpaid taxes.

The other seven owed between 100,024 euros and 2.9 million euros.

Police collar Preveza gang of robbers

Police in the northwestern port of Preveza on Tuesday detained three Albanians, aged 24, 28 and 32, believed to have carried out at least 24 burglaries in the area, usually exploiting the absence of local homeowners to break in to houses and steal jewelry, electronic devices and other valuables. Of the 24 thefts attributed to the ring, 22 targeted homes while two of the break-ins were at cafes.

Soldier dies in apparent suicide while on sentry duty

A soldier based near the northern town of Orestiada died of a single gunshot wound in what appeared to be a suicide in the early hours of Tuesday. The soldier, who was identified only as I.K., suffered fatal injuries inflicted with his service rifle, military sources said.

A local prosecutor has launched an investigation into the exact circumstances of the shooting, which occurred while the soldier had been on sentry duty.

Migrant smugglers arrested at bus depot

Two men arrested on Saturday at the central Intercity Bus (KTEL) station in Athens are Afghan nationals believed to be members of a ring that smuggled irregular migrants from Greece into other countries of the European Union, authorities said on Tuesday.

The two suspects – aged 22 and 47 – were arrested at the KTEL depot on Kifissos Avenue after being caught bringing eight illegal migrants to the station in a car and a taxi in order to place them on a bus headed to the western port city of Preveza. Police, who were acting on a tip-off, believe the migrants would then be boarded by other ring members onto a boat that would take them further west into the European Union.

Investigations suggested that the two suspects, as well as another two men who are being sought, charged undocumented migrants hoping to come into Greece and then make their way further west 3,000-4,000 euros per person.

Justice minister 'chilled' by photographs of arrested youths

Justice Minister Antonis Roupakiotis on Tuesday claimed to have found photographs published by Greek police of four young men arrested in the course of a double bank heist in northern Greece and bearing obvious signs of injury as «chilling.»

Speaking on Alpha radio on Tuesday morning, Roupakiotis expressed his horror at the photographs of the four youths, who were arrested last week for a double armed bank heist in Kozani and have been linked to the urban guerrilla group Conspiracy of the



Cells of Fire. Police also believe the four men could be the perpetrators behind a bloodless bomb blast at The Mall in northern Athens last month.

«I was chilled by the pictures showing their swollen eyes and lips,» Roupakiotis said.

«On the other hand – and I am not trying to measure my words – when you clash with someone wielding a Kalashnikov assault rifle, you can't be holding a flower,» he added. «This sort of thing is violent by its nature.»

Athens public prosecutor Panagiota Fakou

has launched an investigation into claims that all four suspects were beaten while in police custody.

The intervention followed complaints by relatives after photographs of the four suspects, bearing heavy bruises to their faces, were published by police. Indications that some of the photographs were doctored, to conceal the presence of police officers' hands constraining the suspects or to tone down the bruising, provoked strong criticism.