
news release

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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA OFFERS ANTI-TERRORIST REWARD

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Bob Kaplan, Solicitor General of Canada, announced today that the Government of Canada has approved a reward of up to \$100,000 for information and/or evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the attempted assassination of Turkish diplomat Kani GUNGOR in Ottawa, Canada, on April 8, 1982 and the murder of Turkish Military Attaché Colonel Atilla ALTIKAT, also in Ottawa, on August 27, 1982. Two terrorist organizations, the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) and the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide (JCAG), claimed responsibility for these crimes.

Prior to the crimes against the two Turkish officials, Canada was not seriously affected by international terrorism. By offering this reward, the Canadian Government reasserts its unrelenting commitment to combat terrorism and to do everything in its power to bring the perpetrators of such acts to justice.

The offer of this reward is consistent with the practice of other states in cases involving acts of terrorism.

Any information should be conveyed to the nearest office of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Ottawa City Police at (613) 236-0311, Extension 236. Information on the investigation may be obtained from the Commanding Officer, R.C.M.P. "A" Division, Ottawa or the Ottawa City Police.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The offer of a reward in cases involving acts of terrorism is consistent with the practice of other states. For example, in 1980, the Australian government offered a reward eventually increased to \$250,000, following the murder of the Turkish Consul General to Australia and his aide. In the Federal Republic of Germany, substantial rewards were offered for information leading to the arrest of some 15 members of the Red Army Faction following the kidnapping and slaying of Hans Martin Schleyer in 1977. A large reward was also offered in Italy in relation to the kidnapping of U.S. General James Dozier in December 1981.

The offer of rewards is a normal police practice, although amounts have been much smaller.

Canada, through international cooperation, contributes in many ways to combating terrorism. Canada has actively participated in the development and implementation of a series of international conventions for the promotion of the safety of civil aviation, including security measures against hijacking; for the prevention and punishment of crimes against internationally protected persons, including diplomatic agents; and hostage-takings. As one of the Economic Summit countries, Canada has supported political and practical measures, including sanctions as expressed in the 1978 Bonn Declaration on Hijacking and the July 1981 Ottawa Summit Statement on Terrorism. Canada is also significantly involved in exchanges of police and other information on terrorists, their movements and tactics.