

Table of Contents

- [***Tunisian synagogue torched amid unrest***](#)
- [***Tunisian Jewish school attacked, as anti-government protests rage elsewhere***](#)

Tunisian synagogue torched amid unrest

JTA (10.01.2017) — <http://bit.ly/2Evgvww> - Unidentified assailants hurled a firebomb at the Ghriba synagogue in the Tunisian island of Djerba, causing minor damage and no injuries.

The incident occurred on Tuesday night amid protests over economic condition in several Tunisian cities, though not in Djerba itself, Reuters [reported](#).

In 2002, terrorists blew up a vehicle near the synagogue, killing 21.

The area of the synagogue is inhabited by four Jewish families. The bulk of the Jewish community of Djerba, which numbers hundreds of people and is the largest in the Arab world, lives two miles north of there, in a neighborhood that is under heavy protection and whose entrances are guarded around the clock by the country's internal security services.

Tunisian police increased its security around the institutions of the Jewish community of Djerba, where hundreds of Jews live and pray in at least five synagogues.

In recent years, Israel's Counter-Terrorism Bureau has [warned Israelis](#) not to travel to Tunisia for the annual pilgrimage to the al Ghriba synagogue, citing recent information that indicates the intention to carry out terror attacks against visiting Israelis or Tunisian Jewish communities.

The traditional festive procession near the El Ghriba synagogue on Djerba takes place on or around Lag b'Omer, a break during the 49 days of semi-mourning between Passover and Shavuot. It draws hundreds of Tunisian Jews and visitors from Israel.

The synagogue, in the village of Er-Riadh, dates back to 586 B.C., although the current building was reconstructed in the 19th century. El Ghriba is sometimes cited as North Africa's oldest synagogue.

Tunisian Jewish school attacked, as anti-government protests rage elsewhere

Allgemeiner (01.10.2017) - <http://bit.ly/2DjCTtx> - Police vehicles stop in front of burning tires set up by protesters during demonstrations against rising prices and tax increases, in Tunis, Tunisia, Jan. 9, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Zoubeir Souissi.

A Jewish school on a Tunisian island was attacked late on Tuesday as police battled violent unrest elsewhere in the country, arresting more than 200 people, witnesses and the Interior Ministry said.

Petrol bombs thrown at the school on the tourist resort island of Djerba, home to an ancient Jewish community, caused some damage but no injuries, the head of the local Jewish community, Perez Trabelsi, told *Reuters* on Wednesday.

There were no protests in Djerba but locals said the assailants had exploited the fact that there was a reduced security presence as police were busy combating anti-government protests elsewhere in the North African state.

"Unknown people took the opportunity of the protests and threw Molotov cocktails into the lobby of a Jewish religious school in Djerba," Trabelsi said.

At the time of the attack, violent clashes were raging in some 20 Tunisian cities as people protested against rising prices and new taxes imposed by on Jan. 1.

About 50 policemen were wounded in the clashes, said Interior Ministry spokesman Khelifa Chibani.

"Last night criminals looted and burned security centers, 45 police cars were torched and some government offices were attacked," he said. "They blocked roads and carried out robberies in many cities ... Obviously, these are not protests, but theft and damage to public and private property."

Mainly Muslim Tunisia has a Jewish minority of fewer than 1,800 people. Jews have lived in Tunisia for over 2,000 years and Djerba is home to Africa's oldest synagogue, El Ghriba, which was hit by al Qaeda-linked terrorists in 2002 in a truck bomb attack that killed 21 people including Western tourists.