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Mawlawi: I was threatened with transfer to Syrian jail

Lebanese citizen Shadi al-Mawlawi, whose arrest sparked clashes in the northern city of Tripoli, said in remarks published on Monday that during his detention he was threatened to be transferred to Syria for investigations.

"I was threatened to be transferred to Syria and questioned by the Syrian intelligence services," Mawlawi told Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Anbaa*.

He also said that he was arrested by the General Security because he helped Syrian refugees and sympathized with the Syrian rebels.

"I used to communicate with members of the Free Syrian Army via internet, but after my release from prison I stopped contacting them, although I feel [tempted to]," *Al-Anbaa* quoted him as saying.

Furthermore, Mawlawi said that he did not belong to any political or religious organization, however, he said that he followed the Salafist ideology and "committed to Islam."

Moreover, he said he sympathized with the Sunni Muslims, "especially because of the injustice that [representatives of the] Syrian regime in Lebanon and Hezbollah have subjected them to."

Mawlawi also said that he would appear in court if he were summoned, adding that he trusted the Lebanese judiciary.

Clashes and protests in Tripoli followed the arrest of Mawlawi earlier in May by General Security at a social services center belonging to Finance Minister Mohammad Safadi.

Last week, Mawlawi was released on bail.

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