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By CHIP CUMMINS

DUBAI—Officials in the United Arab Emirates have issued an arrest warrant for a British man they are seeking in a probe of the January killing here of a top Hamas official, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The new warrant brings the suspect tally in the case to 33 and adds what Dubai officials believe is the first suspect operating without an alias to the list. Since the January killing of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in a Dubai hotel room, police here have released a series of details about more than two dozen suspects, who officials say used forged or fraudulently issued passports to plan and carry out the killing.

However, Dubai officials believe the new suspect used his real passport, which could make it easier for international authorities to find him, according to the person familiar with the situation.

Dubai officials have blamed Mr. Mabhouh's death on Israel's intelligence agency. Mr. Mabhouh was a senior operative in Hamas, the Palestinian militant group, which Israel labels a terror organization.

On Monday, Australia's government said it ordered the expulsion of an Israeli diplomat over the use of fake passports in the assassination. Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said a police investigation left no doubt Israeli intelligence services had been behind the forgery of four Australian passports used by suspects in the case.

In March, the U.K. also expelled an Israeli diplomat after accusing Israel of forging British passports related to the case. Israeli officials have said there is no evidence to implicate Israel.

Acting on an arrest warrant filed by Dubai prosecutors, Interpol, the international police agency, recently posted a public notice



Interpol

Christopher Lockwood, shown in a photo on Interpol's website



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Interpol's website.

seeking British national Christopher Lockwood, 62 years old. An Interpol spokesman declined to comment about the notice, which is published on Interpol's website. The notice said Mr. Lockwood was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

More on Dubai

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familiar with the situation.

A spokesman for the British police said the force doesn't comment about foreign cases in which it is assisting.

A spokeswoman for the U.K.'s Foreign and Commonwealth Office said she couldn't comment specifically about the new suspect. "This is part of an ongoing Emirati investigation into the killing" of Mr. Mabhouh, she said. "The U.K. continues to provide assistance to the Emiratis in their investigations."

Dubai police won international kudos for quickly piecing together CCTV footage, immigration data and flight, phone and credit-card records after the Jan. 19 death to identify several batches of suspects. At one point, two suspects in the killing were caught on a hotel security camera sharing an elevator with their alleged victim.

The case triggered a firestorm in Europe after Dubai released information about suspects that they took from forged or fraudulently issued passports from a number of countries, including the U.K. and several other Western European states. Several capitals launched probes into how their passports could have been misappropriated. So far, Britain is the only country to have disclosed its findings publicly.

Despite the police work in Dubai, the investigation hasn't yet resulted in any arrests. Dubai officials detailed where they thought most of the suspects traveled immediately after the operation. But since all Because the previously identified suspects were believed to be traveling with false identification, authorities have assumed they continued using aliases.

That makes the identification of Mr. Lockwood a possible significant breakthrough in the case. In another possible break, Dubai officials now believe that one of the other suspects they are seeking is the same man being sought by New Zealand police in relation to a 2004 case of passport fraud, according to the person familiar with the situation.

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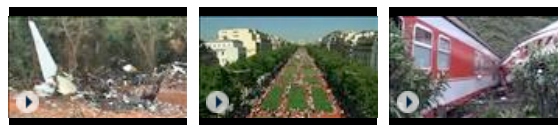
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