



Unexpected twist in Gloucestershire: suspects in RAF Fairford plot released, but international surprise grows

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An increasingly complex and mysterious counterterrorism investigation continues to **shake the United Kingdom**. **Five young British citizens**, arrested at dawn on Sunday following an alert near Fairford air base (used by U.S. forces), were **released on bail under strict conditions**. The decision caught many by surprise, prompting questions and reactions internationally.

The unexpected turn and reactions

The release of the five suspects – all Londoners in their twenties detained on charges of **explosives-related offenses and preparing terrorist acts** – came after initial tests conducted by experts **reportedly found no actual traces of explosives in the seized vans**. Investigators now consider **it unlikely that the group was on the verge of launching an imminent attack**.

The move, however, caused surprise across the Atlantic: **U.S. President Donald Trump said he was openly «surprised» by the release on bail**, stating that Washington had been monitoring the suspects for some time. A position that partly conflicts with the initial course of events, as the response was launched promptly after a vigilant local farmer called the 999 emergency number.

The mystery of the Iranian shadow

Despite the release, counterterrorism police **are maintaining the strictest confidentiality and do not consider the investigation closed**. At the center of the suspicions remains **a possible link to Iran**, fueled by recent threats issued by Tehran against Fairford air base — regarded as a strategic outpost for U.S. bombers and a potential target in the current geopolitical context.

While the Iranian embassy in London firmly rejected all accusations, calling the speculation «unfounded and malicious», Counter Terrorism Policing chief Laurence Taylor stressed that **the men remain under close judicial supervision**. Meanwhile, the British government — through emergency meetings of the Cobra committee coordinated by Andy Burnham and the commitment of Defence Secretary Wes Streeting — continues to monitor the situation to **bolster the security of the country's military facilities**.