

Beat: Miscellaneous

UPDATE1 -- Canadian woman feared kidnapped by ISIS says she is safe

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USPA News - Canadian-Israeli citizen Gill Rosenberg, who is said to be the first foreign woman to have joined Kurdish forces battling the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, said in a Facebook posting on Monday that she is safe, rejecting reports that she had been kidnapped. "Guys, I'm totally safe and secure. I don't have Internet access or any communication devices with me for my safety and security," Rosenberg wrote on her Facebook page.

"I can't reply regularly and only happened to have a chance to log in and see these buklschit (sic) news stories. Ignore the reports I've been captured." Media reports over the weekend claimed that Rosenberg had been captured by Islamic State jihadists near the Turkish-Syrian border, where the group has fought for weeks in an attempt to capture the Syrian city of Kobani. Canada's foreign affairs ministry acknowledged on Sunday that it was investigating the claims, with Foreign Minister John Baird expressing "deep concern" about the reports. Doubts later emerged when friends of Rosenberg insisted that she had not been kidnapped but was merely not updating her Facebook account because she had no internet access. "ISIS's supporters launched a rumor on social media that she was captured in Kobani, which is not true, simply because Gill is at least 300 km from Kobani," friend Oliver Brimo wrote on Facebook earlier on Monday. Rosenberg, 31, is originally from White Rock in British Columbia but she later emigrated to Israel to enlist in an Israeli army search-and-rescue unit. She was arrested in 2009 and extradited to the United States, where she was jailed over an international phone scam, before traveling to Iraq earlier this year to join Kurdish forces in their fight against the Islamic State.

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UPA United Press Agency LTD
483 Green Lanes
UK, London N13NV 4BS
contact (at) unitedpressagency.com
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