Hijacked Libyan plane with 118 on board lands in Malta

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Malta: A hijacked Libyan aeroplane with 118 passengers on board has landed at the Mediterranean island and that there appear to be two hijackers on board, Malta airport authorities said.

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They said that all emergency teams had been dispatched to the site as there was an unlawful interference at the airport.

Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat, said in a tweet that there was a â€˜potential hijack situation involving an internal Libyan flight that was diverted to Malta and that emergency operations are underway at the airportâ€™.

The aeroplane, Afriqiyah Airbus A320, landed in Malta at around 11:32am. It is one of three A320s that Afriqiyah, a state-owned airline based in Tripoli, owns.

The plane, flight number 8U209, left Sabha in south-west Libya for Tripoli at 10:10am. It was scheduled to arrive in Tripoli at 11:20am, but was instead to diverted to Malta International Airport at 11:20.

Reports suggest that the hijacker is a pro-Gaddafi supporter who has threatened to blow up the plane and keep the passengers hostage onboard unless certain, as yet unknown, demands are met.

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