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# Newspaper's UFO hoax panics Jordan town

06:03 AEST Tue Apr 6 2010  
By Jamal Halaby

**The mayor of a town in Jordan says a local newspaper's April Fool's Day report chronicling a late-night visit by three-metre-tall aliens in flying saucers sparked public panic and almost led to the town's emergency evacuation.**

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The Al Ghad newspaper published a front-page article on April 1 about a UFO landing near the desert town of Jafr, about 300km from the capital, Amman. The fake report said the UFOs lit up the whole town, interrupted communications and sent fearful residents streaming into the streets.

Jafr's mayor, Mohammed Mleihan, got caught up in the prank and said he sent security authorities in search of the aliens.

"Students didn't go to school, their parents were frightened and I almost evacuated the town's 13,000 residents," Mleihan told AP. "People were scared that aliens would attack them."

A Jordanian security official said an emergency plan was almost enacted in Jafr.

Mleihan said he may sue the daily for its "big lie" but added the paper had called to apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Al Ghad's managing editor, Moussa Barhoumeh, said the report had been "blown out of proportion".

"We meant to entertain, not scare people," he said.

Jordan's newspapers rarely publish April Fool's jokes.

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