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## **The Daily Telegraph**

### **Biochemist 'returned to find wife'**

By Marco Giannangeli and Hugh Miles in Cairo

THE Egyptian biochemist arrested in Cairo during the hunt for the mastermind behind the London bombings has admitted owning the keys of the Leeds flat used as a suspected bomb factory but claims he did not know it was to be used by terrorists. The first revelations from the questioning of Magdy Elnashar emerged yesterday after he was arrested on Friday. British officials were believed to have found him in a mosque and contacted the Egyptian authorities. The authorities in Cairo are playing down his possible involvement as a bomb-maker for the London attacks, and appeared to be resisting pressure to extradite him. The Egyptian general prosecutor, Maher Abdul Wahid, said that he had not been contacted by the British authorities asking for the extradition of Elnashar, nor was the Egyptian chemist an official suspect. An examination of Elnashar's computer is said to have revealed only music files.

The prosecutor said he would not hand over Elnashar unless he was guilty, and he stressed that the Egyptian constitution prohibited the extradition of any of its citizens to another country. "Elnashar has admitted to owning the keys to the flat, but says he did not know what the property was being used for," said a spokesman for the interior ministry. The interior minister, Habib al-Adli, confirmed in a statement that so far no evidence had come to light linking Elnashar with al-Qa'eda. It emerged yesterday that the academic was once arrested by Egyptian security forces. Egyptian police said that Elnashar was arrested and held briefly in 1992 while in the company of a man later associated with the massacre of 58 tourists in Luxor five years later. Elnashar's brother, Muhammed, confirmed that his brother had once been arrested in connection to radical Islam. But the 28-year-old accountant insisted his brother had no involvement with the London bombing. As anti-terrorism officers continued to question EI-Nashar, it emerged that the 33-year-old may have returned to his native country to find a wife. A source close to Montasser al-Zayat, the eminent Cairo lawyer vying to represent EI-Nashar, said: "We have been told that he went back to Egypt for two reasons. The first is to have his PhD accredited, and the second was to find a suitable wife and bring her back with him to the United Kingdom." EI-Nashar was divorced in 2002 and has one daughter, born in Leeds. [...]



