



Syria as a Powder Keg: The Najrah Attack

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الشريط الإخباري

إصابة ثمانية عسكريين جراء عدوان إسرائيلي استهدف أحد المواقع بمحيط دمشق

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2024-05-02

دمشق-سانا

أصيب ثمانية عسكريين ووقعت أضرار مادية جراء عدوان إسرائيلي استهدف موقعا في محيط دمشق.

وذكر مصدر عسكري في تصريح لسانا أنه حوالي الساعة العاشرة و5 دقائق من مساء اليوم شن العدو الإسرائيلي عدواناً جويّاً من اتجاه الجولان السوري المحتل مستهدفاً أحد المواقع في محيط دمشق.

وبين المصدر أن العدوان "أسفر عن إصابة ثمانية عسكريين بجروح ووقوع بعض الخسائر المادية".

متابعة أخبار سانا على تلغرام

<https://t.me/SyrianArabNewsAgency>



1. In standard, boilerplate Arabic phrases often repeated in similar, if not identical, reports, Syria's state owned news agency, SANA, reported an attack shortly before midnight on May 2nd, 2024.
2. The report states that according to a military source in a statement to SANA the attack began just five minutes after ten o'clock at night. The military source stated that the attack was "an air attack" from the direction of the "Golan Heights," which the Syrian news agency described as 'occupied Syrian territory.' The attack allegedly targeted "a site on the outskirts of Damascus."
3. The attack caused eight soldiers to be injured. The report did not specify whether or not the soldiers were Syrian or otherwise. It could be that the soldiers were from a military other than Syria's, as many different nations currently occupy Syria. Damascus regularly hosts Russian, Iranian, or Lebanese soldiers. In addition to the injured soldiers, the attack caused material damage.

4. AlArabiya's report, which contains far more details than Syria's own state owned, described the attack with context. The report by



خلال غارة إسرائيلية على محيط دمشق - أرشيفية من المرصد السوري لحقوق الإنسان

الشرق الأوسط

هجوم إسرائيلي على محيط دمشق يسفر عن جرح 8 عسكريين

إسرائيل شنت الهجوم الجوي من اتجاه الجولان

سوريا



نشر في: 03 مايو، 2024، 01:42 ص GST
أخر تحديث: 03 مايو، 2024، 01:58 ص GST

العربية.نت

AlArabiya, for instance, mentions that Syria's state owned television channel reported that "Israel executed the air strike from the direction of the Golan Heights." AlArabiya noted: "It is the first time since the targeting Iran's consulate last month." AlArabiya reported further that "Tehran's only talking about [military] advisers

- who are assisting Syrian forces with [militants] located along the border with Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, or Israel.”
5. The article from AlArabiya confirmed reports by French news agencies, such as *Le Journal de Montréal*, that Iran is reducing its presence. The article stated: “Iran is reduced its military presence in Syria after Israeli strikes that targeted a number of [Iranian] military leaders, according to a source close to Hizbollah and a source in Syria’s Observatory for Human Rights.”
 6. In an article published by *Le Journal de Montréal*, one of the few French language dailies to touch upon the subject, published an article outlining the reasons for Iran's decision to redeploy its forces from the capital Damascus and the southern border with Israel.[1] - The author states: “L’Iran, allié du régime en Syrie, a fortement réduit sa présence militaire dans ce pays où il est sous le coup de frappes de plus en plus intense imputées à Israël, ont indiqué mercredi à l’AFP une source proche du Hezbollah et une ONG.”
 7. Citing the Agence France-Press (AFP), a Russian article from *PEK* details how Iran began to redeploy their forces from the capital Damascus and the southern border with Israel, detailing further the actual nature of Iranian withdrawal.[2]
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- ### Hebrew Language Sources
8. Israel’s major mainstream media outlets did not appear to report immediately on the attack, as is often the case. No report from *Maariv* (i.e., מעריב), *The Land* (i.e., דארץ), or *The Latest Notices* (i.e., ידיעות אחרונות) published reports on the attacks. It did not appear as though Israel’s Ministry of Defense issued a statement in regards to the attack. Israel’s military censor forbids news agencies from attributing the origin of an attack to Israel. Generally, these reports relay information published in the Arabic press, which is usually the first to report on these attacks.
 9. Since no Israeli news outlet reported on the attack, there is little to no basis to confirm the the reports published in the



Arabic press. The Arabic press, for instance, failed to provide video footage, GPS information, or details of any kind, indicating beyond a shadow of a doubt that Israel did, indeed, attack the site. Accordingly, these attacks are ‘unconfirmed’ Israeli attacks.

Breakdown in the Levant & Arabian Peninsula

10. The most recent confirmed attack by Israel on Syrian soil

occupied on April 1st, 2024. The attack, about which Israeli media issued multiple reports, struck an alleged ‘consulate’ building adjacent to Iran’s own diplomatic embassy in Damascus.

11. Preceding these attacks, confirmed reports noted that Israel struck multiple targets before April 1st, 2024. On March 18th, 2024, for instance, both SANA as well as AlArabiya reported that Israel attack a target in Syria.[3]

12. Against the backdrop of these continuous attacks, the United States, for which Israel is a dependent client State, began to sanction countries in the Levant and on the Arabian Peninsula. The United States, for instance, sanctioned Turkey together with the United Arab Emirates, for operating a clearing house with which to settle contracts, at least one or more which were in regards to oil, in a currency other than the dollar at well before the beginning of the year. [4]

13. The UAE, which was one of the first countries to retaliate, issued a request for the United States to



begin notifying the U.A.E. before the American military, which is stationed at a base in the country, conducts missions from its base. The United States, in turn, retaliated against the UAE's retaliation in two ways. It issued a second round of sanctions targeting specific industries together with Russia,

China, and Turkey and declared, as early as Saturday, May 4th, 2024, that the United States would 'shuffle' American interests from one base to another. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the United States is transferring its military assets from a base in the UAE to one in Qatar, the home of the famous

Arabic language news agency, Al-Jazeera. “The U.S. arranged with Qataris in recent days,” the *Journal* noted, “to bring in the additional jet fighters, reconnaissance planes and armed drones to Al Udeid, according to a person familiar with the discussions.”[5] The shift from the UAE to Qatar is a deliberate response to the breakdown of US-Emirati relations on the Arabian Peninsula, the likes of which appear to be headed for a further breakdown, as the United States continues to advance its policy to isolate Russia economically.

14. The United State’s treatment of Turkey is driven primarily by a desire to replace Erdogan with a State leader far more compliant with U.S. led NATO’s policy to isolate Russia economically with sanctions, tariffs, or a prohibition on its free trade. U.S. led NATO’s policy on Russia, however, operates in the complete absence of any kind of substitution for its free trade. Russia, for instance, supplies Turkey with cheap coal. The United States, however, has not proposed a source of cheap coal other than the one that Russia supplies. It is not as though

Turkey’s need for cheap energy, for instance, arises out of thin air. These relationships, which are regulated more so by the economy than by the personal decisions of leaders, are an outcome of the objective reality of capitalist development, the likes of which no one can escape. The inescapability of capitalist development dictates, to a certain extent, the outcome of these events beyond what idealistic conceptions may behold for a new vision of the world.

15. U.S. led NATO’s policy to isolate Russia economically is not a centerpiece in a reformist agenda for the improvement of human relations from one end of the world to the next. It is not a new policy for spreading ‘democracy,’ many features of which are no more than ‘nominal’ platitudes to an overthrown ‘Constitution,’ to Russia. The policy derives solely from the understanding that the eastward expansion of NATO is one of the many different aspects of power the United States must guarantee to ensure its continued ability to play a decisive—the primary, leading, definitive role — in the determination of

currency, energy or military contracts, the three most important aspects of an ever emerging struggle for the geopolitics of the world.

being used as cannon fodder, the world powers have no higher use for human beings than for their aspirations on the world scene.

16. With the struggle for dominating influences in the Levant or on the Arabian Peninsula begins to take shape in one form at one time that involves direct military confrontation, in other forms at other times that involve business, diplomacy or politics at others, the amount of powder, igniting nitrocellulose, or explosives the competing nation states pack into the Syrian powder keg portends a conflagration that may extend wildly beyond its borders, joining forces hitherto fore allied into a local, regional, or global war.
17. The class nature of the impending outbreak of global conflagration requires nothing less than a class solution. Workers in Turkey, Iran, Russia, the Emirates, or the United States must understand how the global powers exploit its people. The Ukrainians, who are the “Eastern European manpower” combined with the “technological capabilities of NATO,” are nothing more than cannon fodder. With Ukrainians

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[1] — [L’Iran a réduit sa présence militaire en Syrie, Le Journal Montréal, Avril 24, 2024]

[2] - [Почему Иран начал вывод своих военных из Сирии. АФР сообщила об уходе подразделения КСИР из Дамаска и с юга арабской республики, РБК, 04.25.2024]

[3] — [المرصد السوري : ضربات إسرائيلية استهدفت محيط منطقة بيرود بريف دمشق ، العرية، ٠٣.١٩.٢٠٢٤]

[4] — [“U.S. Tightens Vise on Russian Money,” WSJ, March 20th, 2024]

[5] — [“U.S. Shuffles Military Assets in Middle East,” WSJ, March 20th, 2024]