



Syria as a Powder Keg: The July 14th Attack & the Qaterji Assassination

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1. Shortly after the attack on July 13th, 2024, another attack on July 14th occurred. The attack preceded a targeted assassination on the road from Beirut to Damascus. The road is similarly called the road from Damascus to Beirut. Depending upon the direction one chooses, the way one looks at the road may be a matter of perception. Whether one perceives the road from Damascus heading to Beirut or from Beirut to Damascus.
2. In any case, the *Euphrates Post*, of all Middle Eastern dailies the least rapid in its responses, appears to have been the first to report the attack. It stated as follows: “طائر مسيرة تستهدف سيارة” على اوستراد دمشق-بيروت، ما أدى إلى احتراقها بالكامل ومقتل من بداخلها [1] The report, however, contained no details regarding the identity of the driver or its passengers.
3. Syria’s SANA news agency did not issue any reports on the attack. *AlArabiaya*, however, issued an initial report but later followed up with detailed report, identifying the target of the assassination. The first report was entitled: “مقتل رجل الأعمال السوري براء قاطرجي بعبوة ناسفة.” [2] The second report was entitled:

مول فيلق القدس وحزب الله من هو براء“ قاطرجي الذي اغتالته إسرائيل؟” [3]

4. *AlArabiaya*’s latter report revealed details Middle Eastern bloggers began to circulate throughout social media almost immediately after the attack in regards to the history of the identified target.
5. The July 14th attack preceded Qaterji’s assassination. Syria’s SANA news agency issued a report in standard, boilerplate Arabic phrases often repeated in similar, if not identical, reports, about an attack on July 14th, 2024. It detail the attack with photographs from multiple angles. The photographs details a large underground complex.

Confirmed Analysis

6. The strike on July 14th, 2024 confirms the analysis that the aim of Israel’s strikes is to ensure Israel continues to maintain air superiority throughout the Levant.
7. While neither Israeli nor Arab news media revealed the exact type of anti-air defense systems the Israelis struck, the details are just beginning to emerge. It is

alleged that Israelis struck not one but two anti-air defense systems. According to the pro-nationalist blogger, @rybar_force, the Israelis struck a Syrian Pantsir SPAAGM launcher together with one P-18 radar. [4] According to the report, “[two] more such stations” became the subject of the strike, damaging both. It is unclear which ‘stations’ were struck.

8. According to foreign sources of public information, Syria maintained no less than 36 ЗРПК «Панцирь-С1». If so, Israel reduced Syria’s fleet of «Панцирь-С1» by 1/36th, according to the last known list of its entire arsenal of anti-air defense systems. [5]
9. In contrast with the «Панцирь-С1», the list the «Военно-Промышленный Курьер» provides for Syria’s anti-air defense systems list P-radars such as П-12, П-14, П-15, П-30, П-35, П-80 but no П-18. Accordingly, the amount by which the Israeli air raid reduced Syria’s radar may be incalculable.

10. Although SANA news rarely provides details, news like Al-Arabiya/Al-Hadath or Al-Jazeera, the Qatari news media, often do. In previous articles on Israeli strikes there appear to be few, if any, reports of destroyed Syrian anti-air defense systems. It may be the first time in a long time that Israel successfully destroyed a Syrian anti-air defense system.



The Prehistory to the Qaterji Assassination

11. Advertised under a picture of Bashar al-Assad’s face with the words in Arabic reading, “Aleppo is in my eyes,” the infrastructure project called Sheikh Najjar seeks to transform Aleppo into a metropolis of industry for northern Syria. In Arabic the words read: “حلب في عيوني.”
12. Muhammed Bara’ al-Qaterji, a business man close to the Assad

family, initiated the project less than a month ago to build one of the largest complex of industry in the Middle East, soliciting the evil eye of ire (i.e., عين) from its rivals throughout the region.

Levant, Arabian Peninsula, & Eurasia, there is fierce competition between the competing Middle Eastern nation States to become a regional power.

13. Known as a major sponsor of terrorist activity throughout the Levant, Qaterji is listed as sanction in both the United States as well as Saudi Arabia. Qaterji served as a financial middle man for the wider Axis of Resistance. It is likely that Qaterji acted on behalf of Iran in his support of its members.
14. Given the number of Israeli strikes on Syria in the past, the Israelis are clearly signaling that any attempt to establish the Sheik Najjar project as a veiled laboratory, military industrial complex, weapons manufacture for the extension of Syria's military power is already under Israel's watch. It might even be fair to say, 'crosshairs,' so to speak.

Competition for Regional Power in the Mideast

15. Alongside the struggle among great powers to establish a dominating influence in the

16. Within the increasingly globalized economy of the Mideast, the great powers seek to control currency, raw materials or military contracts (i.e., for those nations incapable of producing heavy weapons independently), the competing nation States in the Mideast struggle to establish a greater economy with greater infrastructure, expanded trade routes, or partners for the exchange of commodities with hopes to obtain weaponry from great powers for its security.
17. In his *Dairy of a Sinai Campaign*, the great one-eyed veteran Israeli general, Moshe Dayan, for instance, catalogued the number of watermelons the Gaza Strip produced not merely to take account of its agriculture but its power in terms of economy. Infrastructure such as the plan Qaterji sought to build in Aleppo is undoubtedly a type of watermelon the Israelis

targeted indirectly through
Qaterji's assassination.

عين

18. In contrast with eastern Europe where the United States is neither the dominant influence nor in control of the regional power, Israel continues to extend its regional power throughout the Mideastern states, despite the fact that the United States is no longer the dominating influence Levant, on the Arabian Peninsula, or throughout Eurasia.
19. With the United States no longer a dominant influence in countries such as Saudi Arabia, whose Crowned Prince, Mohammed ben Salman, rescinded the petrodollar, a legendary pillar of American global superpower, the United States is no less willing to allow Israel to lose sight of its status as the Mideastern regional power than Israel is itself.
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STOP WAR IN THE MIDEAST

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[1] - [غارة جوية لطائرة مسيرة برجح أنها] - [إسرائيلية تستهدف سيارة اوستراد دمشق-بيروت بالقرب من مفرق الصورة، ما أدى إلى احتراقها بالكامل ومقتل من بداخلها، فرات بوست]

[2] - [مقتل رجل الأعمال السوري براء] - [قاطر جي بعبوة ناسفة، العربية، ٠٧.١٥.٢٠٢٤]

[3] - [مول فيلق القدس وحزب الله من هو براء] - [قاطر جي الذي اغتالته إسرائيل؟، العربية، ٠٧.١٥.٢٠٢٤]

[4] - [@rybar_force: “A day after an airstrike on several Syrian positions, the Israelis carried out another strike on Syrian territory: yesterday, an Israeli drone targeted a vehicle on the Damascus-Beirut highway near the Syrian-Lebanese border.” July 16th, 2024]

[5] - [“ПОСЛЕ ГИБЕЛИ «Призрака»,» «Военно-Промышленный Курьер», 13—19 Июля, 2012. № 27 (444)]