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*Viktor Mikhin* 22.12.2024

## The US-Israeli monster is ripping Syria to pieces.

Part II. Israel's policy vis-à-vis Syria is malice and revenge

Israel's nefarious plans for Syria, based on hatred, malice and revenge, are becoming clear days after the fall of the country's government. Since Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham\* (HTS) and other rebel groups took control of Damascus and overthrew President Bashar al-Assad, Israel has intensified its unprecedented attacks on Syrian territory.



### What is Israel bombing?

Israel does not strike militants and jihadists and their positions. The Pentagon is shamefully hiding behind the notion of 'striking terrorist organisations', whereas the IDF explicitly states that its main task in Syria is to destroy the country's military structure and weapons. The Israeli military reported that it has carried out about 480 strikes on strategic military infrastructure in Syria in just 48 hours. "Over the past 48 hours, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have attacked most strategic weapons depots in Syria, preventing them from falling into the hands of terrorist elements", the military said in a statement, adding that the targets

were 15 warships, anti-aircraft batteries and weapons factories in several cities. At the same time, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said that the military "will destroy heavy strategic weapons throughout Syria, including air defence systems, surface-to-air, surface-to-surface, cruise, long-range and coastal missiles". A senior Israeli official said the airstrikes would continue in the coming days.

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The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights added that Israel "destroyed critical military infrastructure in Syria, including Syrian airports and their depots, aircraft squadrons, radars, military radar stations, as well as a multitude of weapons and ammunition depots in various locations in most Syrian provinces". At this point, it is quite clear that Israel is seeking to destroy Syria's defences and expand its presence in the Golan Heights – and possibly beyond – forever.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has brazenly declared that the <u>Golan Heights</u>, <u>occupied by Israel almost 60 years ago</u>, will remain Israeli "forever". Speaking at a press conference in Jerusalem, Netanyahu thanked US President-elect Donald Trump for recognising Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights (1981) during his first term as president and stated that "the Golan will be part of the State of Israel forever". Israel occupied the Syrian Golan Heights after the 1967 Six-Day War. In 1981, Tel Aviv annexed the Golan Heights – a step not recognised by the international community. Netanyahu said that Israel's control over the territory "ensures our security and sovereignty". He personally ordered troops to occupy the UN-controlled buffer zone and move beyond it after rebels overthrew Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Now Israeli troops are only 25km from Damascus and could quickly 'talk some sense' into the new Syrian government.

The United Nations and Israel's neighbours condemned the move. A UN representative stated that Israel's actions are a "violation" of the 1974 agreement on the separation of forces between Israel and Syria. Netanyahu cynically replied that the collapse of the al-Assad government and the retreat of the Syrian army from their positions "annulled the agreement". Earlier, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, in trying to sugar-coat another blatant injustice, said that the seizure of the buffer zone was "a limited and temporary measure that we took for security purposes". US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller expressed understanding regarding Israel's actions, which, in his words, "are not permanent" and "we ultimately want to see long-term stability in relations between Israel and Syria, which means that we support all parties that comply with the 1974 disengagement agreement".

### Israeli campaign aimed at eliminating scientists

<u>Dr. Hamdi Ismail Nadi</u>, scientist and former head of the research centre of the Syrian Ministry of Defence, located near Damascus, was found dead in his house. Dr. Nadi was a chemist and participated in chemical weapons development programmes. Zahra Hemsiya, a microbiologist involved in nuclear research programmes, was killed. She was found in her home with several bullet wounds. Dr. Shadia Habal, a physicist who participated in a number of international programmes, was killed in her home. The killers shot her and her husband and all of Dr. Habal's research was stolen.

The deaths of Nadi, Zahra Hemsiyah and Shadia Habal are reminiscent of the murders of Iraqi scientists committed by the Israeli spy agency after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein more than two decades ago. After the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, <u>hundreds</u> of Iraqi scientists, academics and intellectuals were either kidnapped or killed in the chaos caused by the US war against the Arab country. The killings are believed to have been a systematic attempt to eliminate or expel a group crucial to the reconstruction of Iraq.

At that time, according to reports, the Israeli Mossad, in cooperation with the United States, killed more than 500 Iraqi scientists and professors. They claimed that Israeli special forces operating against Iraqi scientists were active in the country after the fall of Saddam. On June 14, 2005, the Palestinian Information Centre reported that Israeli and foreign agents sent by Mossad to Iraq, in cooperation with the United States, killed at least 350 Iraqi scientists and more than 200 university professors and academics. It quoted a report compiled by the US State Department for then-US President George W. Bush. According to the report, Mossad agents operated in Iraq to eliminate Iraqi nuclear scientists and biologists, as well as other scientists and prominent university professors.

"Israeli special forces have been operating in Iraq for more than a year and the main purpose of their activities was to kill Iraqi scientists and intellectuals. The Zionists resorted to a large-scale campaign of assassinations after the failure of American efforts, which began immediately after the US occupation of Iraq and were aimed at attracting a number of Iraqi scientists to cooperate and work in the United States", the Palestinian Information Centre reported.

Now it seems that Israel has similar plans for Syria. Currently, the nature of Israeli activities in Syria are like a scorched earth policy in the face of the inaction of the armed groups (as well as regional and extra-regional countries) that overthrew al-Assad. HTS\* leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani said that the Syrian people are the "rightful owners" of the country, calling the fall of al-Assad "a victory for the Islamic nation". For now, though, he remains

silent about the escalation of Israeli aggression against Syria. The newly created 'salvation government' in Syria, to which Prime Minister Assad Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali agreed to transfer power, also did not comment on the increased ground and air attacks by Israel. Türkiye, which is considered the main sponsor of HTS\*, also remains silent. Several Arab countries have expressed their disapproval of Israel's military activities in Syria in recent days, but have not taken any concrete measures in response. Western countries are also looking the other way, as they are the sponsors of all these terrorist organisations.

It is now quite obvious that the current rulers of Syria, as well as the countries of the region, have given Israel carte blanche to continue its scorched earth strategy in Syria. This is consistent with Israel's expansionist ambitions in the region. That is why Foreign Minister Sa'ar bluntly and cynically stated in an interview with the Times of Israel newspaper, which took place after Israel launched airstrikes on targets in Syria, that "the only thing we are interested in is the security of Israel and its citizens ... that's why we attacked strategic weapons systems, destroying the military structure". This statement is, as they say, clear as day.

Viktor Mikhin, December 19, 2024

\*organisation banned in the Russian Federation

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