

Israel Launches Attack on Syria After Unverified Gas Attacks

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Israel has been bombing Syria for years in an effort to provoke war, and they targeted a city near Damascus that is said to be a research facility related to chemical weapons. Israel's assault follows on the heels of allegations of a chemical attack on Syrian citizens. In its pursuit of regime change in Syria, Israel has given covert support to al-Qaeda linked groups. This latest attack is part of what has developed into an open state of war between Israel, Syria, and Syria's Iranian allied forces. -GEG

Overnight Tuesday Israel again launched a major attack on Syrian government locations near Damascus in what seems a monthly exercise that many analysts now openly recognize as an Israeli attempt to provoke war with Syria. For at least the third time since the start of the 7-year long war in Syria, Israeli jets attacked a site just outside of Syria's capital city called Jamraya – believed to be a military research facility related to chemical weapons.

Jamraya is an area well-known for its multiple government facilities, including a branch of Syria's Scientific Studies and Research Center, which was the site of two prior attacks by Israel – one in 2013 and another in early December 2017 – but also has sprawling civilian residential areas. It lies on the opposite side of Mt. Qasioun, against which the Damascus city center is nestled.

Like with other recent attacks, Israeli jets are reported to have fired from over Lebanon, with a Syrian military media statement saying that its air defenses intercepted most of the inbound missiles, though no further details were given. Unconfirmed international media reports, however, indicate one or more of the Israeli missiles may

have impacted parts of the Syrian government facility during the strikes which occurred at 03:42 am local time Wednesday morning.

In statement picked up by [Reuters](#) the Syrian military said, “The general command of the armed forces holds Israel fully responsible for the dangerous consequences of its repeated, aggressive and uncalculated adventures.”

And similar to a [September 2017 strike on a military research facility in Masyaf](#) – also said to be a chemical weapons development site, it appears Israel has timed the assault closely on the heels of recent allegations of repeat chemical attacks carried out by the Syrian government against al-Qaeda held pockets of the country – namely Idlib and East Ghouta. Though [admitting “no evidence”](#) US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis suggested last week that the Syrian Army may be using sarin gas while also alleging multiple smaller scale chlorine attacks.

Israel, however, has lately been quick to justify what Damascus has condemned as unprovoked “acts of aggression” in humanitarian terms [as retribution for supposed gas attacks](#). Israel has long been on record as condemning Iran’s presence in the region, however, Israeli leaders lately appear increasingly [reliant on chemical attack claims as rationale](#) for bombing Syrian government sites.

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