

Israel is Trying to Destabilize the New Syrian Government by Attacking the Country's Territory on a Daily Basis

For many observers, it has become evident that Israel is seeking to destabilize the new government in Syria with its continuous attacks on the country's territory, including recent airstrikes near the Syrian presidential palace. In the time since the fall of the Assad regime, Israel has waged a campaign of subversion and undermining in Syria, and warrants criticism for its glaring efforts to threaten the fragile political transition taking place there. Israel's military strikes, bombings, illegal land seizures, and incursions represent a blatant disregard for Syria's territorial sovereignty and a violation of international law. Israel sent troops to unlawfully occupy a swath of southwestern Syria after the ousting of Assad, and has since entrenched itself in a United Nations-designated buffer zone and carried out regular attacks. Furthermore, even public statements from Israeli government ministers have illustrated the plan for aggression and overreach into Syria, and their desire to thwart the prospects of a strong and unified Syria emerging from the toppling of the Assad regime. Just this week, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich remarked that "Israel will only stop fighting when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are forcibly displaced from Gaza and Syria is dismantled as a state." Ultimately, the new government in Damascus and those who wish to maximize the chances of an inclusive and stable Syria have rejected the idea of any form of external interference in the country's affairs.

While Israel has deceptively sought to portray its missile attacks in Syria under the guise of "defending the Druze," Syrian Druze leaders themselves have consistently rejected Israeli intervention and declared their loyalty to a united Syria. They have also lamented the destructive efforts to concoct discord among Syria's diverse population. It is plain to see that Israel is exploiting the Druze as a political tool, as they have done with other regional minority groups in the past such as the Kurds. Israel is claiming that it is championing and protecting the Druze in Syria with its bellicose attacks, when these military strikes are actually in fact aimed at stoking conflict between the transitional government in Syria and minority groups, while also seeking to provoke an attack against Israel by the new Syrian government. Israel wants this to happen, as a response from Syria would fuel further instability and conflict, and in Israel's eyes, provide it with the opportunity to destabilize and delegitimize the transitional government – both to the Syrian people and the world at-large. Syrian officials have seen through these harmful actions and recently criticized Israel for its meddlesome actions, accusing it of trying to incite tensions in the country. Information Minister Hamza al-Mustafa stated that "Israel is trying to exploit sectarian divisions to gain a foothold in Syria as part of its ongoing plans." He added that the new government in Damascus has worked to make civil peace a top priority, and has adopted a strategy of openness in order to bring an array of Syrians into the political process. Thus, officials are calling on citizens to not allow attempts at sowing division to succeed, and have reaffirmed the new government's commitment to protecting all elements of the Syrian population without exception.

Several countries, as well as international organizations like the United Nations, have condemned Israel for its intrusive attacks on Syria, demanding that it "cease its aerial strikes and refrain from any action or interference that may further destabilize Syria." However, notably, the United States has failed to do so, even though it should be denouncing Israel's behavior for risking the provoking of further conflict in the region. The new transitional government has already been facing the challenge of governing following the overthrowing of former despot Bashar al-Assad last December, and has been urging for national unity and inclusivity. Turkey's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs has expressed that "the task of the international community is to contribute to the establishment of security and stability in Syria" – something that Israel is seeking to do the exact opposite of with its attempts to weaken and dismantle the country. Since the fall of the Assad regime, Israel has continually attacked Syria, looking to destabilize the burgeoning country's unity and the legitimacy of the new government. During the preceding months since the change of power in Damascus, Israel has carried out more than 700 strikes targeting Syria, with these actions being a gross violation of Syrian sovereignty and territorial integrity. On the flip side, it is important to note that Syria has not attacked or threatened Israel in any capacity. As such, it is clear that the Israeli attacks are a concerted effort to try and destabilize and delegitimize the transitional government in Syria. It is regrettable that after all of the suffering and hardship that Syria has endured under the previous oppressive and dictatorial regime, Israel is now seeking to obstruct the prospect of stability and prosperity.

Syria has been given an opportunity to recover and stabilize following over 14 years of conflict, and yet Israel continues to undermine the new Syrian government's sovereignty. It is doing so with its attacks, and also its illegal occupation and recent further infringements on internationally-recognized Syrian territory in the Golan Heights. As officials from the United Nations have outlined, "These actions are a gross violation of Syrian sovereignty and territorial integrity, which under no circumstances need to be called into question — regardless of who holds power in Damascus." Time and time again, the current Israeli government has demonstrated with its actions that it has no respect for the principles of international law, sovereignty, or human rights.