

‘Russia Is No Match for Israel’s Air Power in Syria’

Adi Koplewitz / April 27, 2022

The Jewish state’s freedom of action over Damascus will only increase, expert says

Four Syrian soldiers were killed, and three others were wounded, in an Israeli missile attack on several positions of regime forces in Damascus early on Wednesday, the state-controlled Syrian Arab News Agency reported.

[...]

“Russia is no match for Israel’s air superiority,” says **Zvi Magen**, head of the Russia research program at **Tel Aviv University’s Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** and a former Israeli intelligence officer.

“Russia is deterred by Israel in Syria, and its military forces are not a factor for the IAF [Israel Air Force]. If anything, there is a match in interests when it comes to Iran, against whom Russia is fighting for control in Syria,” he adds,

Magen, who was born in Siberia to a father who served in the Red Army in WWII and a mother from Poland who survived the Holocaust, is a former Israeli ambassador to Moscow.

[...]

“The casualties are a little unusual, but I don’t think they reflect an intended change in Israeli policy,” says Dr. **Carmit Valensi**, manager of the Syria research program at INSS, in an interview with The Media Line.

“We have been monitoring attacks in Syria for a few years now, and at least when it comes to frequency, this attack is more of the same. I doubt anyone in Israel decided to intentionally kill Syrian soldiers. Israel’s goal has been and remains to thwart shipments of technology that is supposed to make Hizbullah’s old rockets more accurate. Casualties are collateral damage,” she explains.

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