

JIHAD WATCH

Israel Destroys Syrian Military Without a War

Hugh Fitzgerald / Dec. 21, 2024

Amidst the chaos in Syria, and with grave doubts about what's to come, despite the soothing assurances about protecting the rights of minorities that Ahmad al-Sharaa (a/k/a Mohamed al-Jolani) keeps issuing, the Jewish state worries that the instability in Syria could lead to a take over the country by jihadists, possibly led by other leaders in Hayat Tahrir al-Sham who do not share Al-Sharaa's putative change of heart, or by leaders from other rebel factions.

[...]

"The territory guarantees strategic control over the whole southern Syrian arena, which generates an immediate threat to Israel," **Kobi Michael, a researcher at INSS and the Misgav Institute for National Security and Zionist Strategy**, told The Media Line. "There is no higher vantage point than the Syrian part of the Golan."

Power in Syria is now de-centralized, with the country fragmented between several groups, most of them extreme Islamist, potentially posing a new array of threats to Israel.

"Israel is not looking to apply sovereignty to the buffer zone, but rather to militarily control the area in order to prevent danger under conditions of instability," **Michael** assessed....

The Israeli military swiftly entered Syria, apparently reaching deep into its territory and taking control of the peak of Mount Hermon, which allows for an advantageous view of both Syria and Lebanon. Reportedly, the army also conducted airstrikes in Syria against sites that stored unconventional weapons, air-defense systems, and navy vessels. Video on social media showed explosions in various cities and pictures of alleged Syrian Air Force bases destroyed.

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