

Syria's Iranian and Russian Allies may Openly Intervene if Crisis Escalates

By [RT](#)

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Israel's reported second air strike on Syria in two days targeted a facility just outside the capital. But there was no escalation toward Israel to justify the attack - and Tel Aviv is only trying to drag the US into the conflict.

That's the view of journalist and Middle East expert Ali Rizk, who told RT he believes the actions are Israel's attempt to influence US Middle East policy.

RT: This isn't just an isolated incident but a series of air offensives above a foreign territory. Why has Israel been so persistent despite the fact that such military action is a clear violation of international law?

Ali Rizk: I think you have to put all the pieces of the puzzle together. Remember that all of the furor and havoc about chemical weapons? Who was the one that made this first announcement...it was Itai Brun, the military intelligence Israeli official who made the announcement about Syria using chemical weapons from the very beginning, after President Obama had said time and again, "that is the red line."

That didn't succeed thus far in dragging the US to war against Syria so now I think we had two incidents.

There was a reported Israeli strike on a convoy and now we have indeed an Israeli strike on Jamraya. So I think we have a classical example of what we might call Israel trying to manipulate US policy in the Middle East, trying to drag Obama yet again into another confrontation.

I think that is the case which we have right now, once again. So Israel is going to continue with these practices until it drags the US into conflict.

Why? The reason being that the Syrian army has made military advancements very recently. It seems that Bashar Assad militarily has gained the upper hand so Israel realizes Assad won't be going unless there's outside intervention. So Israel is trying to drag the US by saying "If you don't go in, then we shall wreak havoc. We shall go ahead with our own military escalation."

RT: We've heard from commentators from Israel that the strikes are a balanced reaction. Do you agree?

AR: Balanced reaction to what? It's in Israel's interests for this to happen. Has there been

any escalation against Israel for Israel to react? Has there been any military action, has Israel been attacked by any side, whether it be Hezbollah or Syria? Has Israel been attacked by any side whatsoever? Israel has not been attacked.

So we hear this talk about game-changing weapons. But that doesn't give the right or justification for such escalation...I have to emphasize, the clear message if anyone had any doubts I think now it has become clear: Israel wants Bashar Assad to fall. That is Israel's choice. Netanyahu himself has said time and again: "Syria is the linchpin between Iran and Hezbollah."

RT: The Assad government, which has been portrayed as warring tyrant by many countries, has now become the victim of a powerful war machine. Could Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran weigh in if Syria did go to war with Israel?

AR: That's the big question. The Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made it clear and provides an answer to this question. In a speech last Thursday, he said that Syria's real friends - meaning Hezbollah, Iran, and Russia - won't allow Syria to fall into the hands of the US, Israel, or Al-Qaeda affiliates...

I think what you have now is that Iran and Hezbollah now have a new significant ally of real significant weight which is Russia, which is continuing to the Middle East scene once again. So I think that if we do have escalation, Iran will intervene, Hezbollah will intervene, and I think also we might speak about a Russian intervention or some kind of a Russia role because Russia clearly has been very much present and there saying "I am here and I have a significant say."

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