

## Washington OK's Israeli Aggression on Syria

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, February 03, 2013

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

It shouldn't surprise. Washington and Israel are longstanding imperial partners. Significant regional operations are jointly planned.

It's done well in advance. It's for strategic advantage. Operations are part of a greater regional agenda.

On February 1, [TIME magazine](#) headlined "The Fallout from the Air Raid on Syria: Why Israel is Concerned," saying:

"Israeli warplanes struck several targets inside Syria overnight Tuesday, including a biological weapons research center that was reportedly flattened out of concern that it might fall into the hands of Islamist extremists fighting to topple the government of Syrian president Bashar Assad, Western intelligence officials tell TIME."

"(O)nly two airstrikes" were widely reported. One alleged Israeli warplanes targeted a weapons and munitions convoy heading for Lebanon.

Previous articles discussed what happened. They asked why would Assad send vitally needed weapons and munitions to Lebanon? He needs all he can get.

If reports were accurate, evidence would have corroborated them. None was forthcoming.

What's Israel up to? Is something else going on? Is it trying to provoke Syria to retaliate? Does it want to entrap it in all-out war? Doing so would mean Syria's demise. Attacking Iran might follow. So could regional and global war potentially.

Mossad-connected [DEBKAFfile](#) said Obama "green light(ed)" Israel to attack. Doing so had "three objectives."

(1) The Jamraya research center serves "Syria, Hizballah and Iran." DF said three targets were struck. Whether true or not isn't known.

It claims they're related chemical weapons storage, connected laboratories, a depot holding sophisticated weapons, and a truck fleet able to transport them "cross border."

(2) The attack aimed to disrupt Syrian/Iranian/Hezbollah "cooperative military efforts."

(3) Israel "took its first (overt) step into the Syrian conflict." It's been covertly involved for two years or longer. DF didn't say.

It stopped of calling Syria Washington's war. So far it's with death squad proxies. Israel's attack may precede something greater. The fullness of time will tell.

A [Jerusalem Post](#) (JP) editorial headlined "Syrian spillover," saying:

Israel "has a right and an obligation to prevent the anarchy in Syria from spilling over to Lebanon and endangering Israelis."

Fact check

Israel's involved in Syria's conflict. It's been so since early 2011 uprisings. Potential spillover is its own doing. It's got itself to blame.

JP suggests otherwise. "The time has passed," it says, "for limited military measures designed to stabilize the situation such as the establishment of no-fly zones, safe areas, bombing campaigns and arming the opposition."

JP barely stopped short of urging all-out war. Whatever Israel does is justified, it believes. National security is the usual pretext. It's a canard. Israel's only regional threats are ones it invents.

Stop NATO editor Rick Rozoff told Progressive Radio News Hour listeners that Israel dramatically escalated the conflict.

Syria's a warmup for Iran. Israel committed naked aggression. Recriminations so far haven't followed.

Washington said little. Ban Ki-moon disgracefully urged both sides to show restraint. Doing so shows which one he supports.

UK Foreign Secretary William Hague said:

"I'm not going to give any condemnation of Israel or rush into any criticism. There may be many things about it that we don't know, or the Arab League or Russia don't know."

Israel got away with murder. It's done so many times before. Surgical strikes may be prelude for greater conflict. The fullness of time will tell.

According to TIME, unnamed Western intelligence sources said "at least one to two additional targets were hit the same night, without offering details. Officials also said that Israel had a 'green light' from Washington to launch yet more such strikes."

TIME claims Jamraya Research Center buildings destroyed were "warehouses stocked with equipment necessary for the deployment of chemical and biological weapons."

No evidence corroborates it. TIME's allegations are baseless.

Its source said Washington was "poised to carry out similar airstrikes around Aleppo if rebels threaten to take sites associated with weapons of mass destruction in that region."

TIME hyped non-existent threats. Washington has longstanding ties to so-called “jihadists.” Hezbollah threatens no one. Nor does Iran, Hamas, other frequently named groups, or so-called “home-grown terrorists.”

TIME quoted former senior Mossad official Amnon Sofrin, saying:

“If we succeeded all these years to deter the Syrians and all the other surrounding countries that possess weapons of mass destruction (from using them), it’s because we knew how to deliver the message, that the price would be very high.”

In other words, invent threats. Conceal a greater agenda. Attack preemptively. Ignore international law. Sofrin suggested that Washington and Israel allied against Syria throughout the conflict.

Doing so has been more visible recently. When Israeli warplanes struck, IDF military intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Aviv Kochavi was in Washington. He was visiting his Pentagon counterparts.

Perhaps something greater is planned. Ousting Assad is longterm policy.

Former Assistant Secretary of State James Dobbins directs RAND Corporation’s International Security and Defense Policy. After Israel bombed Syria in September 2007, [he asked](#):

“Does this mean we are on the verge of another Middle East war?” Does Washington want it avoided or was Israel given “the green light” to proceed?

Israel “ha(d) a good case for bombing Syria.” Assad’s “helping to resupply Hezbollah.” At some point, they’ll “begin lobbing rockets at Israel.”

Israel and Syria “never lacked reasons” for war. Official circles knew about Israel’s intentions months in advance. Washington encouraged it. It supported Israel’s 2006 Lebanon war.

At the same time, Dobbins expressed concern about a region “literally in flames.” Things are much worse now than then. If greater war on Syria follows, everyone stands to lose.

Policy planners leave that issue unaddressed. So did TIME. Rhetoric instead points fingers the wrong way. The [New York Times](#) consistently turns truth on its head.

“Israel girds for attacks,” it hypes. Syria is “falling apart.” Chemical weapons threats are claimed. Israel has a right to act. It’s technically at war with Syria.

Conflict spilled cross border several times. Errant shells allegedly landed in Golan. It’s Syrian territory. Israel illegally occupies it.

Israeli tanks fired on Syrian artillery units. Allegedly it was in response to incoming mortar fire. Syria’s got all it can handle. The last thing it wants is war with Israel.

Netanyahu initiates provocations. Damascus shows restraint. Doing so may not prevent greater conflict. Assad is blamed for Western-generated crimes.

Israel’s very much involved. So are high stakes. Wider war threatens. Millions of lives are at

risk. What follows bears close watching. Future articles will discuss more.

*Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago and can be reached at [lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net).*

*His new book is titled "Banker Occupation: Waging Financial War on Humanity."*

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanII.html>

*Visit his blog site at [sjlendman.blogspot.com](http://sjlendman.blogspot.com) and listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network Thursdays at 10AM US Central time and Saturdays and Sundays at noon. All programs are archived for easy listening.*

<http://www.progressiveradionetwork.com/the-progressive-news-hour>

<http://www.dailycensored.com/washington-oks-israels-aggression-on-syria/>

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2013

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

#### About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at [lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net). His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at [sjlendman.blogspot.com](http://sjlendman.blogspot.com). Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted

material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)