

Syria Claims ‘Significant’ Damage To Airport From Israeli Strike

DAMASCUS (AP) — An Israeli airstrike that struck Damascus International Airport caused “significant” damage to infrastructure and rendered the main runway unserviceable until further notice, Syria said at the weekend.

The statement by the Transportation Ministry was the first detailing the extent of the damage from Friday’s airstrike.

The IDF has declined to comment on the airstrike.

The Syrian statement said the runway had been damaged “in several locations” and that the strike also hit the airport’s second terminal building.

“As a result of these damages, incoming and outgoing flights through the airport were suspended until further notice,” it said.

The airport is located south of the capital Damascus where Syrian opposition activists say Iran-backed militiamen are active and have arms depots. Israel has for years carried out strikes in the area, including one on May 21 that resulted in a fire near the airport leading to the postponement of two flights. This was the first time an airstrike caused damage leading to the suspension of flights at the airport.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said the Israeli strike hit three arms depots for Iran-backed militiamen inside the airport, adding that the northern runway at the facil-

ity was damaged, as was the observation tower.

The Observatory added that the northern runway was the only one functioning after Israeli strikes last year badly damaged the other runway, known as the southern runway.

Israel has staged hundreds of strikes on targets in Syria over the years but rarely acknowledges or discusses such operations. It says it targets bases of Iran-allied militias, such as Hezbollah, which is based in Lebanon and has gunmen deployed in Syria fighting on the side of President Bashar Assad’s government forces.

The Syrian Transportation Ministry statement said civil aviation cadres and specialized units were working to remove debris and repair damage and that operations will resume as soon as flight safety can be ensured.

Meanwhile, Syria halted flights to and from Damascus International Airport “until further notice” on Friday, the transport ministry said. Cham Wings Airline, a private Syrian carrier, said it was rerouting all its flights to Aleppo International Airport.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian condemned the attack as a “clear violation of Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity ... [and] contrary to international law and human principles,” in a phone call with his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad, Iran’s state media reported.



Michael Giladi/Flash90
A view of the Israel-Lebanon border

IDF Uncovers Hezbollah ‘Environmentalists’ on Israel-Lebanon Border

HAMODIA STAFF

YERUSHALAYIM — The IDF charged last week that Hezbollah is using the Green Without Borders environmental organization as a cover for terror operations on the Lebanon-Israel border.

Hezbollah members operate at an observation post while disguised as activists from Green Without Borders, according to the IDF’s Arabic-language spokesperson Avichay Adraee, who released photos of Hezbollah operatives and noted that the observation post violated U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701.

The commander of the IDF’s Northern Command, Amir Baram, stated that “recently, the construction of Hezbollah’s frontal positions along the border

has intensified. We know them by their names and where they’re coming from... When the day comes they will pay the price, they and those sending and also the front villages that serve as a military terrorism base for them. We will destroy all the infrastructure along the line of contact.”

There was ample precedent for the Hezbollah ruse. In 2017, then-head of the IDF’s Intelligence Directorate, Herzi Halevi, stated that Hezbollah had established outposts marked with the logo of Green Without Borders along the border.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) rejected Israeli allegations.



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