



SYRIAN THREATS



Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv (Photo by Chris Hoare via Wikimedia Commons, CC-BY-2.0).

Syria threatened to attack Ben-Gurion Airport in response to Israel's aerial strike against a weapons storage site at Damascus International Airport earlier this week. [Israel's Iron Dome defense system took out the missile that was fired over the Golan Heights.]

The Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations, Bashar Ja'afari, warned of the possibility of such a retaliatory attack, when he spoke Tuesday at the UN Security Council's monthly meeting on the Middle East in New York.

"Isn't it high time for this council to take the necessary measures to stop the repeated Israeli aggression against the territories of my country?" he asked.

"Or should we attract the attention of the war makers in this council, by exercising our legitimate right to self-defense and respond to the Israeli aggression against the Damascus International Civil Airport by launching an aggression against the Tel Aviv airport."

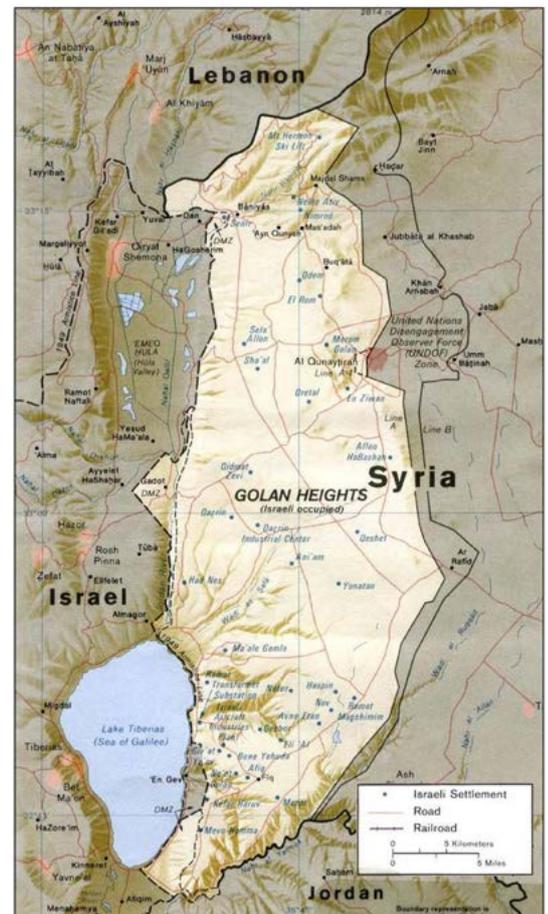
Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria during the Six Day War in 1967 and has since annexed it. Israel has asked the Trump administration to recognize its sovereignty over that area. The UN repeatedly passes resolutions calling on Israel to return that territory to Syria, in spite of the civil war in that country.

Earlier this week, the IDF attacked military targets belonging to the Iranian Quds Force in Syria, including weapons storage sites, an Iranian intelligence site and an Iranian training camp. The strikes were in response to a surface-to-surface missile that was shot at Israel by the Iranians in Syria on Sunday afternoon.

The Syrian Center for Human Rights in London reported that the number of people killed in the IDF attack had risen to at least 21. According to the report, 15 of the dead were not Syrians, with 12 being identified as members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corp.

May We Never Forget

As I write this, it is Holocaust Memorial (or Remembrance) Day. As Charles Gardner of the UK writes: "Nearly three-quarters of a century has passed since the Red Army liberated the notorious Auschwitz death camp on January 27, 1945, a date now marked by the annual Holocaust Memorial Day...It is held with the intention of ensuring that it never happens again.



CIA map of the Golan Heights as of 1989: Note "Syria" superimposed over Golan Heights, 'Israeli Occupied' (Image by CIA, via Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain).

But alas, anti-Semitism is back to haunt us, proving the point often made that we never learn from history.

In the midst of all this, the silence from most leaders of the Christian church has been deafening – just as it was in Germany and elsewhere during the Shoah. I guess this is largely because of the dangerous and heretical Replacement Theology that has certainly swept through much of the...church.



The arrival of Hungarian Jews at German Nazi death camp Auschwitz in Poland, Summer 1944 (Photo by Ernst Hofmann or Bernhard Walte, via Wikimedia Commons by the German Federal Archive, CC-BY-SA 3.0).

We should be witnessing stirring calls from our pulpits to stand with Israel, but somehow they don't see the connection. That's because they have been disconnected from the roots of their faith, and have forgotten that we worship the God of Israel, who has sent his Son as Messiah, first for the Jews and also for the Gentiles.

We owe them everything – the Law, the Prophets, the Patriarchs, the entire Bible (Luke being the only Gentile author) and most of all Jesus, who will soon return as the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5).

That the Jewish state is once more under severe threat was illustrated by the surface-to-surface missile fired into Israel by Syrian-based Iranian forces on Sunday. [Thankfully], it was successfully intercepted...

If we truly love Jesus, we will love Jewish people – as many of our Arab friends testify on finding peace and reconciliation at the cross. Wake up, church!" (*Israel Today*, Charles Gardner).

Please continue to pray for Israel.

***"I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed"* (Genesis 12:3, CJB).**

In Messiah,
Lonnie C. Mings

Christian Friends of Israel - Jerusalem
email: prayer@cfijerusalem.org