



Iran Threatens Israel

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani said on Tuesday (April 24) that the Islamic Republic will definitely punish Israel for the air strike on the Syrian T-4 airbase near Homs, in which several Iranian officers were killed, Iranian affiliated Press TV broadcasting agency reported.

"The Israeli regime's aggression against Syria is a breach of this country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity and runs counter to all international regulations and principles," he said in a news conference that was broadcast on state television.

"When a regime assumes the right to violate another country's airspace in a planned move and also to target forces fighting with terrorism, it should have definitely considered its consequences and retaliatory reactions before," Shamkhani emphasized.

However, the timing and other specifics were unclear as of yet, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council added.

"The punitive measures of the Islamic Republic of Iran are definite; but when, how and under what circumstances this will happen is in the hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran."



Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council (photo by Mohammad Ali Marizad, Creative Commons, CC-BY-SS 4.0).



IDF Air Force F-15I Ra'am jet fighter. Israel is accused by Russia and Syria to have used this type of aircraft in the T4 airbase attack (photo by TSGT KEVIN J. GRUENWALD, U.S. Air Force, Public Domain via Wikipedia.com).

Reiterating the Iranian regime's stance that through its actions it is pursuing peace and stability in the region, Shamkhani added that "The Islamic Republic of Iran has paid a considerable price in order to establish regional stability and fight against Takfiri [inter-Muslim] terrorism. Therefore, it cannot remain indifferent to the worrying increase of destabilizing measures by the US, the Zionist regime [Israel] and some of their regional allies."

Tensions between the Islamic Republic and Israel started rising after the infiltration of an armed Iranian drone into northern Israel in February and the April 9 air strike on a Syrian T-4 airbase that killed seven Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) members, something that Israel has not confirmed or denied, but was blamed for by Iran as well as Russia.

Rhetoric has been riding high in this latest spar between Israel and the Islamic Republic. Last Friday, when speaking at a festive cabinet meeting honoring Independence Day, Prime Minister Netanyahu said that anyone who harms Israel will pay a heavy price.

"We hear the threats from Iran, and the IDF and security forces are prepared for every possible Iranian move. We will fight whoever tries to harm us. We will not shy away from action against those who threaten

our security. They will pay a heavy price.”

Israel last week also released details about what it described as an Iranian “air force” deployed in neighboring Syria, including civilian planes suspected of transferring arms, a signal that these could be attacked should tensions with Tehran escalate.

Hossein Salami, second-in-command of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, immediately responded by saying: “Do not trust your airbases, they are within the range of fire. Our fingers are on the trigger and the missiles are ready to launch. The moment the enemy decides to act against us, we will launch them. We have learned ways to overcome our enemies, and we can harm the enemy’s vital interests anywhere we want.”

US intelligence is monitoring a series of cargo flights from Iran into Syria that the US suspects may be carrying weapons systems into Syria for potential use by Bashar al-Assad’s regime or Iranian forces. An administration official confirms to CNN that the flights took place and the US and Israel are both concerned the cargo could potentially include weapons that could eventually be used to threaten Israel.

Lord Richard Dannatt of the “High Level Military Group” (HLMG), a group of former senior military leaders from NATO and other democratic countries, issued a 76-page report assessing the threat Hezbollah poses and the likelihood of war.



Gen. Sir Francis Richard Dannatt, KCB, CBE, MC (photo by Richard Harvey, via Creative Commons.com, CC-BY-3.0).

Lord Dannatt, a former UK Chief of the General Staff, got op-ed space in the Daily Telegraph to explain that the West “has no coherent plan” to avert a war between Hezbollah and Israel:

“In the absence of a concerted international effort to rein in Iran in the region – and no such coherent Western strategy currently exists – we must be prepared to expect Israel to defend its vital security interests robustly. Many criticize the IDF for being heavy-handed but, having quizzed their Chiefs of Staff personally, I believe they would act within acceptable legal and moral standards. Yet the legitimate military objectives Israel would be forced to attack in a conflict with Iran, and its proxy terror-armies hiding among civilians in Lebanon and Syria, would make for a very grave war.

“To have any hope of avoiding such a conflict, Britain and her allies must understand Israel’s position, making clear to Iran and Hezbollah that their campaign of terror against Israel will be met by international condemnation and an acceptance of Israel’s fully legitimate military reaction. We should now proscribe Hezbollah in its entirety, ending the farce of our denying a reality that even their own leader articulates – that it is but one organisation, and its terrorism and politics are linked inextricably. If they say it, why don’t we accept it?” (JPost)

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked bears rule, the people mourn” (Proverbs 29:2).

In Messiah,

Lonnie C. Mings



Brig. General Hossein Salami: “Today... there is fertile ground - with the grace of God - for the annihilation, the wiping out, and the collapse of the Zionist regime [Israel]”, July 1, 2016. (Wikipedia.com, photo via creativecommons.ru, CC BY-SA 3.0).