# IDF: Iran fired missile from Syrian area we were promised Iran had left

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The missile that was fired into the Israeli Golan Heights on Sunday and in response to, the [IDF struck multiple targets throughout Syria](https://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/IDF-We-hit-Syria-in-response-to-Iran-missile-fire-at-Golan-Heights-578111), was fired from an area near Damascus which Israel had been assured was empty of Iranian forces.

“The firing of the missile yesterday, a launch that could have killed civilians, was fired by Iranians out of Damascus within an area that we were promised that there would be no Iranians,” IDF Spokesperson Brig.-Gen. Ronen Manelis told reporters Monday morning.

According to the Israeli military, the missile was an Iranian-made medium-range model that was fired from the outskirts of Damascus.  The launch which came at approximately three in the afternoon came about an hour after Israel allegedly struck targets in Syria in a rare daytime attack.

“The bottom line is that such a missile fired by Iranians from an area where there they are not supposed to be is an Iranian attempt to attack Israel, to endanger civilians lives and military targets.”

According to him, the fire was carried out by Iranian command and not by Syrians or local militias.

"This was planned in advance as an attempt to deter us from continuing to act against them in Syria," Manelis said, stressing that the missile launch on Sunday and the Iranian targets struck early on Monday showed just how deep Iran’s entrenchment in the war-torn country is.

"This is the third time that Iran has tried to attack Israel in the past year, he said referring to past events in February and May when rockets were launched by Iranian troops towards Israel, adding, "Iran is exploiting Syria, and Syria is paying a heavy price for facilitating Iranian actions.”

Israel has worked closely with the United States and Russia to try and get Iranian and Hezbollah forces to depart Syria where they have been fighting alongside forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad since the civil war started in the country some eight years ago.

On Friday the pan-Arab al-Quds al-Araby reported that Moscow asked Jerusalem to halt its airstrikes against Iranian targets near the Damascus airport saying that Russia was preparing to renovate it following damage it has sustained during the war.

Quoting unnamed officials, the report said the continued Israeli strikes on Iranian and Hezbollah targets in the airport were causing foreign airlines to reconsider resuming flights to the Syrian capital.

The report came a day after the IDF and a delegation of senior Russian military officials completed a series of meetings aimed at improving relations between the two armed forces following the downing of a Russian spy plane by Syrian air defenses last year which Moscow continues to lay the blame on Israel for.

In July, Israel reportedly rejected a Russian offer to keep Iranian forces in Syria some 100 kilometers away from Israel’s northern border, sticking instead to its demands that Iran not be allowed any military foothold in the country.

The offer came during a two-hour meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem where the Israeli leader demanded that all long-range missiles and air-defense systems be removed as well as precision-guided missile factories be shut and the closing of the border crossing between Syria and Lebanon as well as between Syria and Iraq to prevent Iran from smuggling weapons overland.

One of Iran's aspirations is to complete a land bridge from its own borders through Iraq, Syria and Lebanon to the Mediterranean Sea.

This route would cover approximately 800 miles of territory, including the Tigris and Euphrates valleys and the deserts of Iraq and Syria. If successful, the land bridge would give Iran the ability to transfer weapons t Hezbollah and project its power throughout the region.

Israel is concerned that such a presence would give Iran influence over political decision making in Syria. It could also mean that IRGC commanders, advisers and doctrines would be incorporated into Syria's security architecture.