

# *Israel Unveils U.S.-Made Advanced F-35 Warplanes*

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Tel Aviv, May 3 (RHC)-- Israel has unveiled its F-35 stealth warplanes recently obtained from the United States, a further sign of Washington's full military support of Tel Aviv in its crackdown on the Palestinian people and aggression against its neighbors.

Three of the five advanced F-35 multi-role jets, purchased last year, appeared for the first time in the skies along the Mediterranean coast and across several cities, including Tel Aviv, during an air show held for the 69th anniversary of the regime's creation, known in Palestine as the Nakba Day (the Day of Catastrophe), on Tuesday. The occasion marks the anniversary of the forcible eviction of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland by Israelis in 1948.

Israel plans to buy a total of 50 F-35 warplanes from their manufacturer, the U.S.-based Lockheed Martin international aerospace company. The Israeli regime, which receives over \$3 billion a year in U.S. military aid, is currently in the process of obtaining the first batch of its purchase; 33 F-35 jets at an average price of about \$110 million each.

Israel already has five warplanes that are said to become operational this year, and they are the first shipment of these state-of-the-art aircraft outside the United States. Lockheed Martin has described the F-35 jet as "virtually invisible," a capability that allows the aircraft to evade even the most sophisticated anti-aircraft missile systems.

Critics and human rights groups have already warned that the inclusion of advanced F-35 warplanes will free the regime's hand to further crack down on Palestinian people and worsen their plight. The newly-added military power also enables the Israeli regime to carry out undetected airstrikes and spying operations in neighboring countries, particularly war-torn Syria.

Israeli's latest aerial aggression against Syria occurred on April 21st, when the regime's warplanes fired at least two missiles at a military position in the vicinity of Khan Arnabah town in the countryside of Quneitra, the capital city of the southwestern province of Quneitra. In March, Israeli warplanes had also struck several targets in Syria.

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