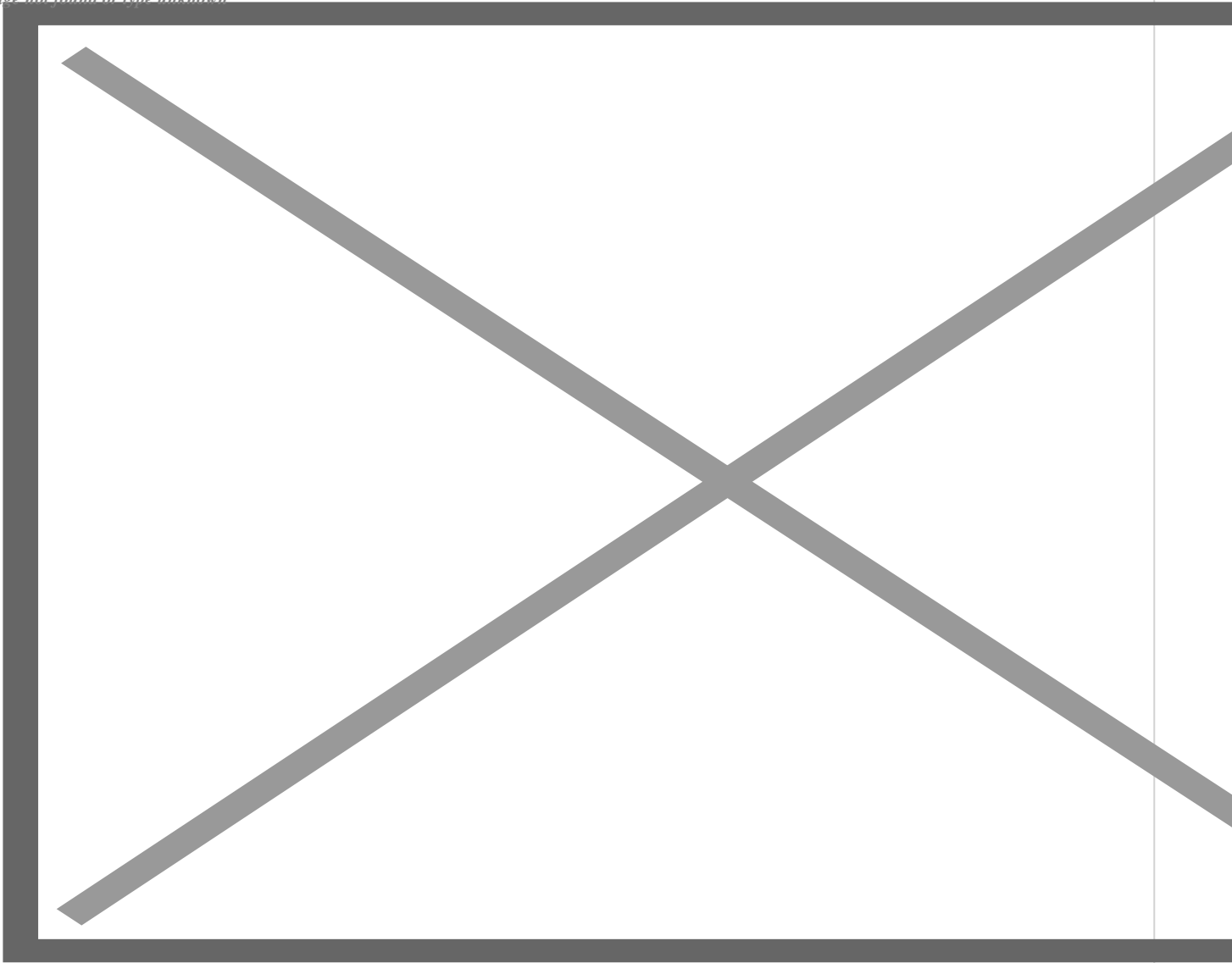


Syrian air defenses shoot down Israeli missiles over Damascus

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Since the war broke out in Syria in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of air attacks [File: SANA/AFP]

Damascus, September 3 (RHC)-- Syrian air defenses have shot down missiles fired by Israel in the skies over the capital, Damascus, SANA state news agency said early on Friday.

“At around 1:26 a.m. today, the Israeli enemy carried out an air aggression from the direction southeast of Beirut, targeting some points in the vicinity of the city of Damascus,” a Syrian military source was quoted as saying in a statement carried by SANA.

“Our air defence confronted the aggressor’s missiles and shot down most of them, and the losses were limited to materiel,” the statement said. The sound of the roaring Israeli planes flying at a low altitude over the areas on the outskirts of Beirut was heard at dawn on Friday, witnesses said.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors violence in Syria, confirmed the attack. It said the Israeli attack targeted a Syrian government forces’ site used by pro-Iranian militias to develop weapons in Barzeh and Jamraya, rural areas near Damascus.

The watchdog said ambulances rushed to the targeted site and the area was cordoned off by Syrian security.

The Israeli military declined to comment on the reported attack on Syria.

Last month, Syria said Israeli air raids targeted the Damascus and Homs regions, adding that the country’s air defences intercepted several Israeli missiles.

Since the war broke out in Syria in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of air attacks on Syrian territory, targeting government positions as well as allied Iran-backed forces and fighters of Lebanon’s Hezbollah movement. However, it rarely acknowledges such attacks.

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