

Israeli attack puts Syria's Aleppo airport out of service



File photo of earlier Israeli attack on Aleppo airport?

Damascus, March 7 (RHC)-- Israel has launched an air raid on Syria's Aleppo airport, damaging its runway and taking it out of service, according to Syrian state media. The SANA news agency said the missile attacks took place early on Tuesday morning.

Citing a military source, SANA said Israel "carried out an air attack from the direction of the Mediterranean Sea, west of Latakia, targeting Aleppo International Airport". SANA said the raid "caused material damage" to the airport and "put it out of service." It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties.

The city of Aleppo, which suffered widespread destruction in Syria's civil war, was again heavily damaged in the deadly 7.8-magnitude earthquake that hit southern Turkey and northwestern Syria last month. A number of countries have since sent aid shipments to the city's airport.

For almost a decade, Israel has carried out hundreds of air attacks against suspected Iranian-sponsored weapons transfers and personnel deployments in neighbouring Syria, but it rarely acknowledges or discusses the operations.

The raids, which in recent months have targeted Syrian airports and air bases, are part of an escalation of what has been a low-intensity conflict with the goal of slowing down Iran's growing entrenchment in Syria, military analysts say.

Iran, which backs Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, has expanded its military presence in Syria in recent years and has a foothold in most state-controlled areas and thousands of members of militias and local paramilitary groups under its command, according to Western intelligence sources.

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