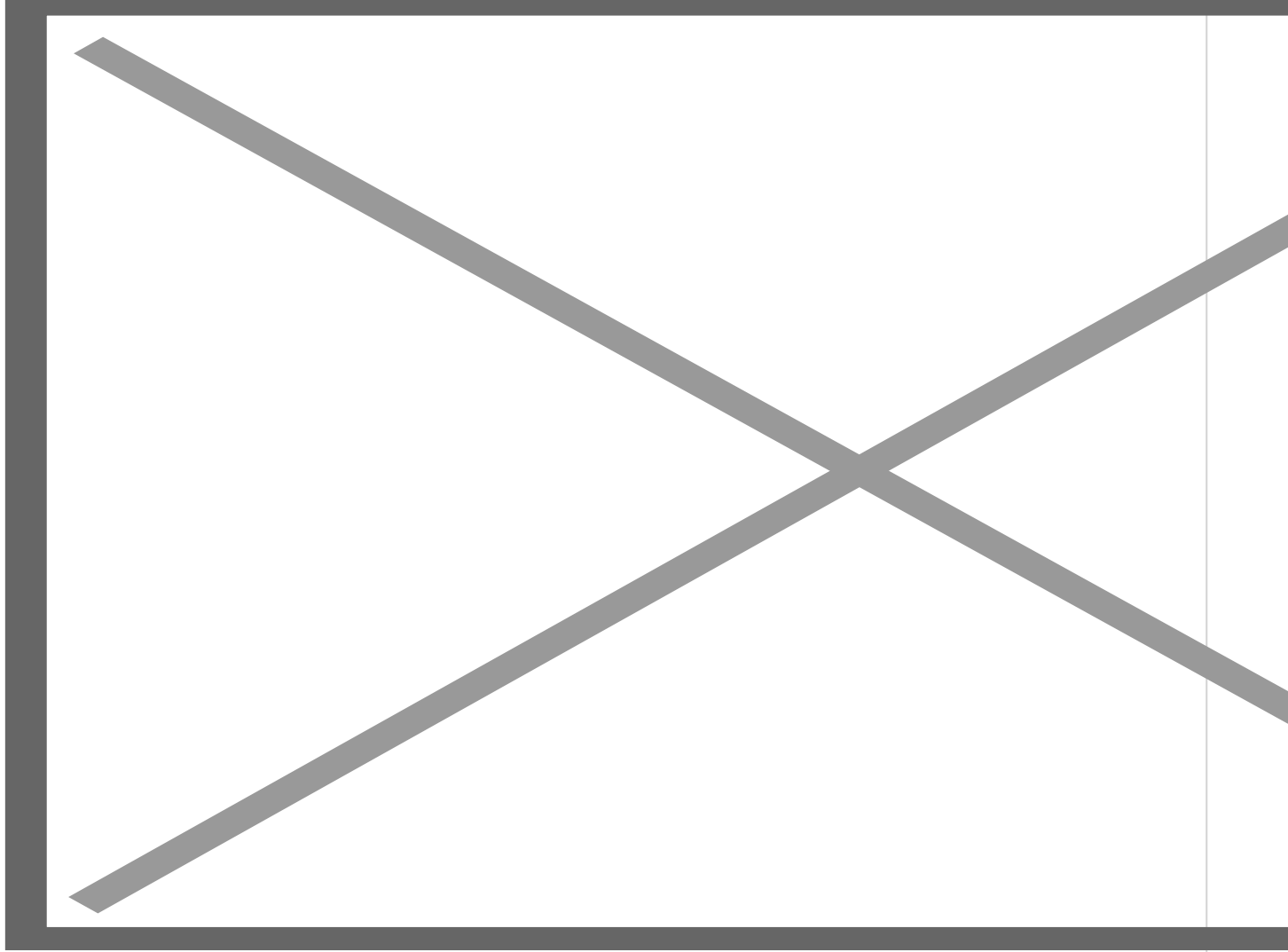


Hezbollah says U.S. strikes in Syria and Iraq will further destabilize region

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**The photo shows a destroyed building in al Qaim, Iraq, after US strikes on February 2, 2024.
(Photo by Reuters)**

Beirut, February 3 (RHC)-- The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has denounced overnight US airstrikes in Iraq and Syria as "a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the two countries," emphasizing that the aggression would further destabilize the region.

Hezbollah made the remarks in a statement on Saturday, after the US carried out what it called "retaliatory strikes" against targets inside Iraq and Syria. "What the United States of America has done is a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the two states, an aggression on their security and territorial integrity, and a breach of all international and humanitarian laws," the resistance group said.

It went on to say that this aggression would lead to destabilizing the region, adding that it would create "pretexts and flimsy excuses" for the continuation of US occupation of various areas in Iraq and Syria.

The resistance movement further noted that US aggression on Iraq and Syria exposes the lies of Washington's claims of not wanting to expand the conflict in the region. "On the contrary, it contributes to fueling conflict, tension, and escalating wars in the region," it added.

Hezbollah further said it believes that this "criminal aggression" will push the Iraqi and Syrian people to adhere to the path of resistance to liberate their countries from the U.S. occupation and to continue supporting and aiding the besieged Gaza Strip until the Israeli aggression is stopped.

On Saturday, the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that its forces have struck more than 85 targets "with numerous aircraft" during overnight raids on localities in Iraq and Syria. It claimed the targets include depots of rockets, missiles and unmanned drones.

Iraqi resistance forces have conducted dozens of strikes on the U.S.-run military installations in both Iraq and Syria amid growing anti-U.S. sentiments in the region over Washington's support for the Israeli genocidal campaign in Gaza.

Israel launched the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas carried out the surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm in response to Tel Aviv's decades-long campaign of bloodletting and devastation against Palestinians.

Since the start of the aggression, Israel has killed more than 27,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the latest count by the Gaza Health Ministry.

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