

# *Israel deploys powerful new missile in large-scale aerial, naval attacks on Syria*

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Damascus, December 16 (RHC)-- The Israeli regime sustains its heavy attacks against various areas across Syria as Western-backed militants, who ousted the country's government earlier this month, strengthen their foothold.

On Monday, the regime's warplanes struck vital facilities and military infrastructure along the country's western coastline, including the cities of Tartus and Latakia, where they pounded missile bases and ammunition depots.

Massive explosions rang out across the cities during the attacks. Due to the intensity of the explosions and resulting fires, it was first believed to have been a tactical nuclear attack.

Russia's Sputnik news agency also reported Israeli assaults against military facilities in Hama and Homs, two other western provinces, adding that attacks against Hama and Aleppo, which is likewise situated in western Syria, shook the targeted areas like an "earthquake."

Local sources, meanwhile, reported that the regime's warplanes had also hit the Military Airport in the eastern province of Deir al-Zawr. The agency cited sources as saying that Israeli warships had launched a number of missiles towards the Syrian coast, especially targeting the Tartus Province. According to them, this was the first time that the Israeli military was deploying "such missiles" against Syria's military sites.

The reports came a day after the regime attacked the positions that used to belong to the country's Republican Guard and the Syrian military's Fourth Armored Division in the Tal Mneen area and the town of Hafir, north of the capital Damascus.

Also on Sunday, Israeli forces occupied three new villages across the country, namely the Jamla village in the western Syrian province of Dara'a as well as the Mazraat Beit Jan and Mughr al-Mir villages in Rif Dimashq Province.

Israeli aircraft also bombed an air defense site in the town of Muhajja in the eastern countryside of Dara'a's capital and attacked the warehouses of the Syrian military's 18th Armored Division in the eastern suburbs of Homs.

The regime has markedly intensified its deadly attacks against the country, especially targeting its military infrastructure, in the aftermath of its takeover by anti-Damascus militants, who are widely reported to have been receiving extensive military support and cooperation on the part of the Israeli regime and the West.

As part of its aggression, the regime has expanded its occupation of Syria's Golan Heights, overrunning a buffer zone in the territory, and announced plans to ramp up the population of illegal settlers in the mountainous region.

Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network said Israeli occupation forces had also advanced as far as 15 kilometers (9 miles) in the western Syrian province of Quneitra.

Regional Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Iraq, have lashed out at Tel Aviv over the measures.

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