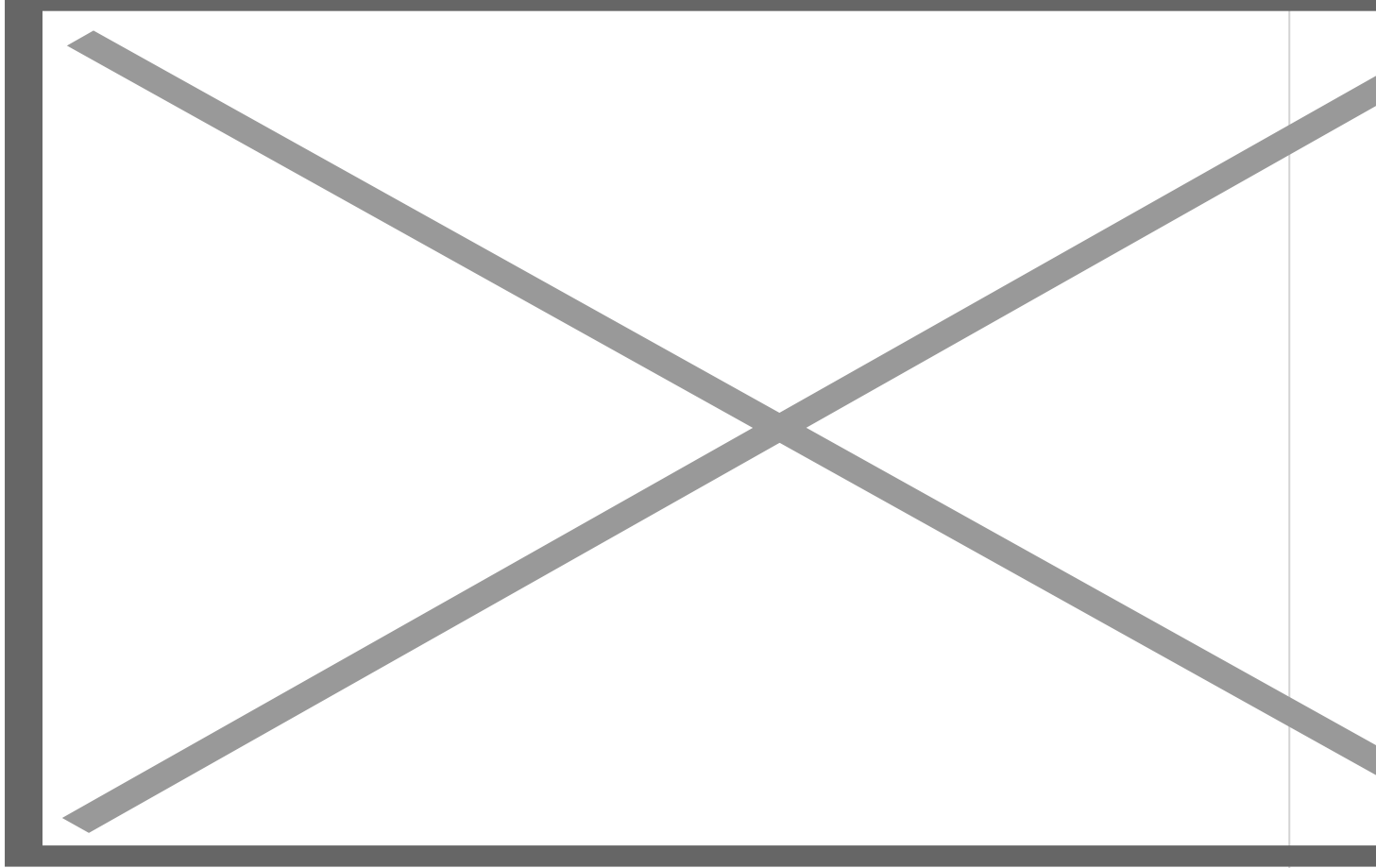


Syrian air defenses intercept Israeli missile barrage targeting Damascus suburbs

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In this file picture, missiles rise into the sky as the Israel military is carrying out a strike against military sites in Damascus, Syria. (Photo by the Syrian Central Military Media)

Damascus, October 24 (RHC)-- Syrian air defense units have managed to intercept and bring down most of the missiles launched by the Israeli military at various targets in the vicinity of the Arab country's capital city of Damascus.

Syria's official news agency SANA, citing a military source, reported that Israeli warplanes fired several missiles from the direction of the north of the occupied Palestinian territories at some targets near Damascus at about 2 p.m. local time (1400 GMT) on Monday, but Syrian air defenses could bring down most of the projectiles. The source also noted that the strikes injured a soldier and caused some material damage.

Earlier, the state-run and Arabic-language al-Ikhbariyah Syria television news channel reported that two loud explosions were heard across Damascus after the Israeli military fired several missiles towards Syrian military positions in the countryside around the capital.

The Israeli attack is a rare example of strikes during the daytime in Syria, as the Tel Aviv regime usually hits military installations under the cover of darkness. Syrian air defenses intercepted an Israeli missile attack over Damascus and the southern region late on Friday, and explosions were heard in the capital's vicinity. No immediate information was available on possible damage or casualties.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding Takfiri terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

Israel frequently targets military positions inside Syria, especially those of the resistance movement Hezbollah which has played a key role in helping the Syrian army in its fight against the foreign-backed terrorists.

The Tel Aviv regime mostly keeps quiet about its attacks on Syrian territories, which many view as knee-jerk reaction to Syrian government's increasing success in confronting terrorism. Israel has been a main supporter of terrorist groups that have opposed the government of President Bashar al-Assad since foreign-backed militancy erupted in Syria.

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