

Missile Attacks on Syria

On Sunday, April 28, a series of missiles struck a munitions storage site in Syria. The attack ferociously massacred at least sixteen inhabitants, mostly Iranians, in the middle of the night. Survivors say that the explosion was so large that it shook the ground like a minor earthquake. Israel is currently the primary suspect of the horrendous attack, which also destroyed a sizable cache of missiles. Rising tensions and increased military action between Iran and its enemies is planting fear in the minds of people around the world that a new war is on the rise.

In recent times, there has been an intense competition for power in the Middle East, mostly between Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Reportedly, these tensions have been particularly amplified lately due to the deadline by which United States President Donald Trump has said he will choose whether to pull the United States out of the international agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program coming up soon on the twelfth of May. Iran has sought to preserve this deal, due to the fact that it gives the country significant sanctions relief. On the other side, regional allies of the United States have been campaigning to have the program trashed in order to punish Iran for the horrors it has been causing its enemies within close proximity. So far, President Trump has appeared tempted by the thought of punishing Iran, and many people have guessed that the president will choose to scrap the program altogether.

Hours before the strikes took place, President Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel discussed "the continuing threats and challenges facing the Middle East region, especially the problems posed by the Iranian regime's destabilizing activities," according to a statement from the White House. Mike Pompeo, the new Secretary of State, was visiting Israel at the time of the phone call and of the missile strikes. In a news conference with Mr.

Netanyahu, he said that American coordination with its allies was “critical to our efforts to counter Iran’s destabilizing and malign activities throughout the Middle East.” He also stated later that “The United States is with Israel in this fight, and we [the United States] strongly support Israel’s sovereign right to defend itself.” It has been reported that these statements were most likely made before Pompeo or President Trump were informed of the missile attacks.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that the April 28 strikes hit munitions warehouses at the 47th Brigade military base in the central Hama Province used by Iran and its proxies. They further reported that the strikes destroyed ground-to-ground missiles and caused large explosions. These said explosions were so large that they were picked up by earthquake monitors. The European-Mediterranean Seismological Center reported a disturbance in the area of the base with a magnitude of 2.6 which is equivalent to a minor earthquake. An official from the regional alliance that includes Iran, Syria and Hezbollah reported that the strikes in Hama destroyed two hundred missiles. Others reported that the attacks also struck a fire station in Hama Province, as well as the Neirab military air base near Aleppo. Thankfully, no deaths or significant destruction were reported at those sites.

As many anticipate Trump’s decision regarding the possible curb of Iran’s nuclear program, others will mourn the deaths of their lost ones in the repeated attacks between warring countries in the Middle East. With more attacks being threatened, it appears as though leaders of Iran, Israel, Syria, and others will need to act fast in making protective decisions for the futures of their countries.