

Video: Syrian Military to Get S-300 Systems, Other Assistance From Russia

By [South Front](#)

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Russia has announced a batch of measures, which will be employed in response to the shutdown of the IL-20 military plane as a result of hostile actions by Israeli F-16 off the Syrian coast.

According to a September 24 statement by Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, Russia will provide an S-300 air defense system to the Syrian military within the next two weeks. The Russians will also equip all HQs of the Syrian Air Defense Forces (SADF) with automated process-control systems thus providing the SADF with better intelligence and targeting information and integrating it with the Russian military group deployed in the war torn country. Furthermore, the Russian EW system will suppress communications, radars and satellite navigation of combat aviation involved in any attacks on Syria from the eastern Mediterranean.

Local sources and international observers already noted an increase in the activity of transport aviation at Russia's Khmeimim Air Base in Lattakia. Reports also appeared that at least 8 Su-30SM and Su-35 fighter jets had been deployed allegedly to carry out combat missions in Syrian airspace.

The Russian Defense Ministry also once again mocked the Israeli version of the IL-20 incident during a press conference held on September 24. The defense ministry released a data captured by the S-400 air defense system deployed at Khmeimim Air Base, which shows how an Israeli F-16 used the IL-20 plane as cover against Syrian air defense fire.

"Today's data no longer suggests, but clearly proves that the blame for the tragedy with the Russian IL-20 aircraft lies entirely with the Israeli air force and with those who authorized this kind of activity," military spokesman Major General Igor Konashenkov stated during the press briefing.

Earlier, the Israeli military had claimed that its F-16 jets were in Israeli airspace when the IL-20 was accidentally shot down by a Syrian S-200 missile.

The decision to supply Syria with the S-300 system already triggered fire and fury in the US and Israeli media. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu phoned Russian President Vladimir Putin asking him not to supply the system.

"The transfer of advanced weapons systems into irresponsible hands will increase the dangers in the region," Netanyahu told Putin, according to Israeli media. The prime minister also claimed that "Israel will continue to defend its security and its interests." On September 25, top Israeli leadership held a security cabinet meeting on the matter.

First reports about a possible decision to deliver S-300 systems to Syria appeared in April 2018 following a missile strike by the US-led bloc on facilities of the Damascus government. Then, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman threatened that Israeli forces would wipe out these systems if they were employed.

On September 24, US National Security Adviser John Bolton also commented on the S-300 delivery to Syria claiming that it's a "significant escalation" and accusing Iran of the IL-20 incident.

"There shouldn't be any misunderstanding here ... The party responsible for the attacks in Syria and Lebanon and really the party responsible for the shooting down of the Russian plane is Iran," Bolton told media.

It's interesting to note how in an attempt to avoid consequences the US-Israeli bloc blames everybody, including Iran, for the incident, which happened during an Israeli aggression against Syria and as a result of the hostile approach employed by the Israeli military toward a Russian air group.

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