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Damascus Visit



MK Azmi Bishara. 'Israel may attack' Photo: Hagai Aharon



Syrian President Bashar Assad. 'Stood by Palestinians' Photo: AFP



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MK Bishara warns Syria of Israeli at

Arab MK arrives in Damascus with his party members, sends alarming message that 'Israel launch onslaught in bid to restore deterrence'

Roe Nahmias
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National Democratic Assembly chairman, Knesset Member Bishara, arrived in Damascus on Friday and immediately making public statements condemning the Israeli occupation of the territories.

Bishara joined his party members, MKs Jamal Zahalka Taha, as well as former MKs Muhammad Kanan and M Miari, who have been in the city since Thursday.

In the course of his meeting with senior members of the Baath party, Bishara warned Syria of the possibility that "Israel launch a preliminary offensive in more than one place, in a bid to overcome the internal crisis in the country and in an attempt to restore its deterrence capability."

During the meeting, Bishara lauded Syria's support for the national rights of the Palestinians and Lebanon, and stressed that the motivation for the "American-Israeli attack" against Syria lies in Damascus' firm stances. "Syria is the last barrier standing before the strike," MK Bishara said. "The Palestinians living under the occupation have long realized the importance of adhering to the Arab option, in light of the scope of adventurous attempts to hurt their cultural and Arab identity," he added.

In an interview with the Syrian news agency SANA, Bishara expressed support for Syria's position and the struggle it was conducting for "the liberation of its occupied lands." Bishara also stated that Syria had been put "under pressure due to the fact it has stood by the resistance and rejected the American hegemony

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- Israel's defense minister, Amir Peretz
- Chief of Staff, Dan Halutz
- Lebanon
- The Lebanon War
- Hizbullah, the "Party of God"
- Hizbullah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah
- The Shiites
- Iran
- Syria
- Syrian President Bashar al-Assad
- Sabra and Shatila Massacre
- Operation Accountability
- Operation Grapes of Wrath

in the occupation, because it insisted on freeing the occupied Arab outside the 1967 lines, and because it has stood up for the nations' right o resist the occupation."

During the interview, Bishara declared: "We are Syria's allies and will continue to be in contact with it on the national level, through our well-known views."

MK Zahalka explained that the visit in Damascus "was aimed at expressing solidarity with Syria, as well as discussing the recent developments in the region, particularly following the wild Israeli aggression against Lebanon."



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Talkbacks


1. **Traitor should not be in Knesset**
Steven, San Francisco (09.09.06)
2. Who's this Idiot fanning the flames of war **(End)**
John, NZ (09.09.06)
3. At what point does he become a traitor according to the law? **(End)**
curious (09.09.06)
4. MK Bishara why dont you become a member
ERIC,,,, ISRAEL (09.09.06)
5. MK Traitors!
David Kaber, Cincinnati (09.09.06)
6. You Jews don't even have the sense to stop treason
Mahmoud, Jerusalem (09.09.06)
7. **Show me another country in the world that puts up with this!**
Tahl, Israel (09.09.06)
8. Do not keep these enemies closer
Georgette, Los Angeles, US (09.09.06)
9. #6
david, santa cruz (09.09.06)
10. Bastarde
piter, poland (09.09.06)
11. UGLY TRAITOR BISHARA OUT OF KNESSET NOOW !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
AVINU (09.09.06)
12. **mk bishara**
david, jerusalem isarel (09.09.06)
13. ARAB MK Bishara Called SEVERAL Times for INTIFADA
Linda Rivera, New York (09.09.06)
14. Solidarity with SYRIA, huh?
howard, pacific coast, usa (09.09.06)
15. bravo #6
Ed, Los Angeles (09.09.06)
16. BISHARA and ARAB MK'S
Chester Steinberg, Miami USA (09.09.06)
17. Effects of the submissive Israeli left?
Ehud, Israel (09.09.06)
18. MK traitor
PHIL, Mtl, Canada (09.09.06)
19. OUT!!!! NOW!!!
(09.09.06)
20. ARAB MK: 'I ADVISED PA TO KIDNAP SOLDIER'
Linda Rivera, New York (09.09.06)

21. STOP VILE CRIME - JEWISH TAXPAYERS FORCED TO FINANCE TREASON **(End)**
Linda Rivera, New York (09.09.06)
22. Syria just wants a fight
Israel (09.09.06)
23. Israeli citizenship off - at least
(09.09.06)
24. Bishara visit to Syria
Eli Golan, USA (09.09.06)
25. Try this seditious bastard and let him stay in Damascus
(09.09.06)
26. HE IS REALLY PUSHING IT!
(09.09.06)
27. bishara is not a traitor
gadalyah (09.09.06)
28. Members of the Knesset in Syria
Bernard Goffenberg, Canada (09.09.06)
29. Stop calling him an idiot. Traitor, yes, but he's very smart **(End)**
reader (09.09.06)
30. Azmi Bishara
NYC Girl (09.10.06)
31. #7 Tahl, here is your other country.
Sheikh yer Bu'Tay, Dar al-Harb (09.10.06)
32. The idiots and the traitors
Mike, Atlanta, USA (09.10.06)
33. the 100,000 arabs who voted for him feel the same way **(End)**
Abu Humus, Umm Al Fahem (09.10.06)
34. Traitor allowed in Government!
RA (09.10.06)
35. #6 Very good point!
RA (09.10.06)
36. to abu hummus
Dr. NO, jerusalem (09.10.06)
37. traitor
traitor, traitor (09.10.06)
38. Sounds like Treasonous activity (End) **(End)**
Ephraim, Israel (09.10.06)
39. Sorry Jews
An Opinion (09.10.06)
40. Are You Insane?
David, Boston (09.10.06)
41. Traitors should hang. **(End)**
Johnson, USA (09.10.06)
42. YES, SYRIA!
Laura, Chicago, U.S.A. (09.10.06)
43. how stupid
eduardo, toronto (09.10.06)
44. 32
(09.10.06)
45. 33
(09.10.06)
46. Why is the only outrage in the Talkbacks + not the Knesset??
Zionist, Miami (09.10.06)
47. that is blatant treason... **(End)**
tal (09.10.06)
48. Keep the traitor out..bad for ALL Israelis, especially Arab
David, Boston, USA (09.10.06)
49. ASAP... lol ... ASAP...lol ... ASAP ...lol
Amir, Lebanon (09.10.06)
50. To (#27)... What's holding you? **(End)**
Amir AL-Safir, Lebanon (09.10.06)
51. To #30
LEE, NY,USA (09.10.06)

52. ISRAEL MAY ATTACK SYRIA BUT RESULT MAY BE WORSE THAN LEBANE
observer (09.10.06)
53. Who pays his "holiday trip" **(End)**
Hans, Markdorf, Germany (09.10.06)
54. good news
intelligence guy (09.10.06)
55. We, the Jews, are so meshugahim...
Ethan, Montreal, Canada (09.10.06)
56. MK Bishara practice his freedom of speech rights !!
Sal, Canada (09.10.06)
57. Israel will think twice b4 attacking Syria!!
Sammy, Canada (09.10.06)
58. Well--if you do bomb Syria---make sure this bone head is
Steven Wilson, Anchorage, Alaska (09.10.06)
59. to #1
(09.10.06)
60. # 7
(09.10.06)
61. HE IS AN ARAB
(09.10.06)
62. The man is an imposter...
Anwar, Kfar misra (09.10.06)
63. WHY IS HE ALLOWED TO DO THIS??!!!
Scott (09.10.06)
64. This guy must definitely go out of the Knesset
Boris, Haifa (09.10.06)
65. Bishasa our SAVIOR !
Hani, Montreal, Canada (09.10.06)
66. to 62
Shai, Israel (09.10.06)
67. Bishara #4
Jeff (09.10.06)
68. #7 show me another country...
jeff (09.10.06)
69. Tahl, country responce
gilbert clement, sault ste marie can (09.10.06)
70. At least there are people out there who can say no.
Dr- G, NY (09.10.06)

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