

Hariri rejects Israeli claims about 'missile factories' in Lebanon

Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri has rejected Israel's claims that Iran is building factories to produce missiles in Lebanese territory, accusing the Israeli regime of carrying out "deception campaigns."

In an interview with French daily Le Monde, which was published on Friday, Hariri said Israel "knows very well there are no missile factories in Lebanon."

During a meeting with United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres in Jerusalem al-Quds earlier this week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had claimed that Iran was "building sites to produce precision-guided missiles... in both Syria and in Lebanon."

Israel's minister of military affairs, Avigdor Lieberman, also echoed Netanyahu's accusations against the Islamic Republic in a meeting with the UN chief, saying Iran was "working to set up factories to manufacture accurate weapons within Lebanon itself."

Later, Israeli media claimed that Hariri had raised "objections" and was acting to stop the alleged factory construction.

In the Le Monde interview, however, the Lebanese prime minister rejected the allegation altogether.

"The Israelis are used to conducting campaigns of deception," he said.

As another case in point, Hariri referred to and dismissed Israeli claims about the Hezbollah resistance movement.

"They (the Israelis) say Hezbollah controls Lebanon, and that is not true. Hezbollah is present. It's in the government and it has support in the country. But this doesn't mean Hezbollah controls all of Lebanon," he said.

Last month, in a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Russia, Netanyahu accused Iran of trying "to establish a foothold in Syria."

According to a Russia Today report back then, Netanyahu was told that Moscow, “which views Iran as key to resolving the [Syrian] crisis,” would “note Israeli interests,” in what likely amounts to a diplomatic dismissal of the Israeli claims.

Russia and Iran have been in close coordination to assist the Syrian government’s anti-terror fight.

Source: <http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/09/02/533740/Lebanon-Hariri-Israel-claims-Iran-missile-factories>

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