IL-20M DEPLOYMENT AIDS RUSSIAN STRIKES IN SYRIA

News / Manufacturer

The **Russian** air force has **deployed** Ilyushin **Il-20M** intelligence-gathering aircraft inside **Syria** to help co-ordinate its attacks on rebel personnel, and to also follow the movements of other militaries operating in the area.

Dedicated to electronic intelligence missions, the Il-20M arrived in Syria days after Russia's first Ilyushin Il-76 began to unload military hardware at Latakia air base. The heavily-adapted aircraft's mission equipment includes surveillance radars, an electro-optical/infrared sensor and satellite communications equipment for real-time data sharing.

Asset Image

Image of aircraft type unknown

Russian combat aircraft also deployed to Latakia over the last several weeks – including Sukhoi Su-25s, Su-30s and Su-34s – conducted their first strikes in Syria on 30 September, shortly after Moscow informed the USA and Israel of its intention to launch offensive action.

Yiftah Shapir, the head of Israel's Institute for National Security Studies' Middle East Military

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Balance project, expects the Russian military to further increase its presence in Syria. "They went in after the US and Europe stood aside, and now Moscow is determined to change the situation and to keep its position in the region," he says. "That will involve more forces – mainly in the air."

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