Looking for Vapour Trails

How to use flights and planes in your investigations



What parameters?

- Airline (TransaviaExport for example)
- Cargo or passenger? What type of plane? (Ilyushins were a giveaway)
- □ What is the tail number? Where is it registered?
- Flight numbers (it can tell you whether it is a military flight for example, which company it is working for)?
- Departure/Destination? Military base? Known producer of weapons? Unusual flights?
- UN sanctions reports: which aircraft and airlines are involved in arms trafficking? And news reports.

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من ادارة النقل الجوالية

الى: قبرقة السيطرة بوزارة العضاع

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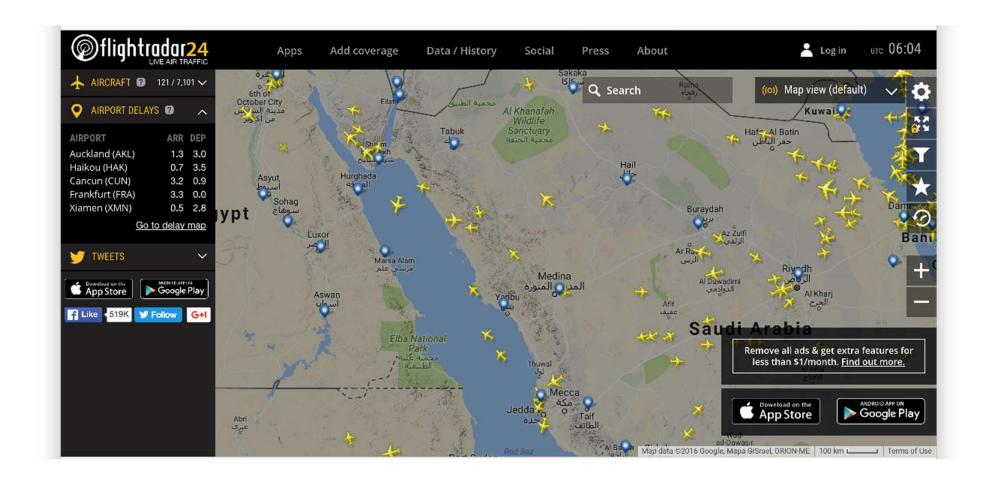
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Flight/Plane Data

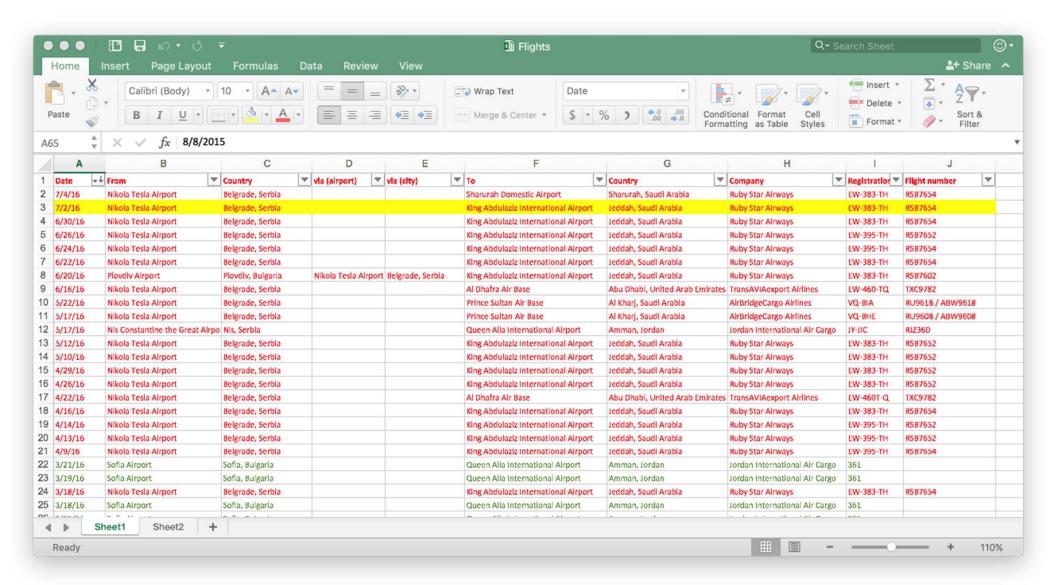
How we identified dodgy flights and planes:

- □ Flights tracking websites (follow types of planes and airlines)
- □ Plane spotters websites
- Social media
- Hanging around airports



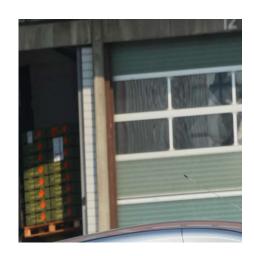
Alerts

- □ Ilyushins landing (or below a certain altitude) at various airports
- Any planes landing at military bases
- Specific planes from suspicious airlines landing at certain airports













THE MIDDLE EAST AIRLIFT

Total Flight flights Routes

Serbia

- 28 Belgrade Jeddah
- 9 Belgrade Prince Sultan Air Base

BULGARIA

- 5 Belgrade Al Dhafra Air Base
- 2 Belgrade Sharurah
- Belgrade Tabuk
- 1 Nis Amman
- Nis Jeddah

Slovakia

- 8 Bratislava Prince Sultan Air Base
- 1 Bratislava Amman
- 1 Bratislava Abu Dhabi

Bulgaria

- 6 Sofia Amman
- 1 Burgas Al Dhafra Air Base
- 1 Plovdiv Jeddah
- 1 Sofia Tabuk
- 1 Velico Tarnovo Aqaba

Czech Republic

1 Ostrava - Al Dhafra Air Base

BIRN and OCCRP identified 68 cargo flights – 50 confirmed as carrying arms and ammunition and 18 likely – from Serbia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic to three key suppliers of the Syrian rebels – Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

Some flights stopped in Central and Eastern Europe before continuing to the Middle East.

Prince Sultan Air Base UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SAUDI ARABIA

Sharurah 🛨

JORDAN

Arrow widths are proportional to the number of flights.

Source: Serbia's Civil Aviation Directorate, airport timetables, cargo carrier history, flight tracking data, leaked arms contracts and end users certificates and air traffic control sources.

ThankYou

lawrence@occrp.org

@lawrencemarzouk